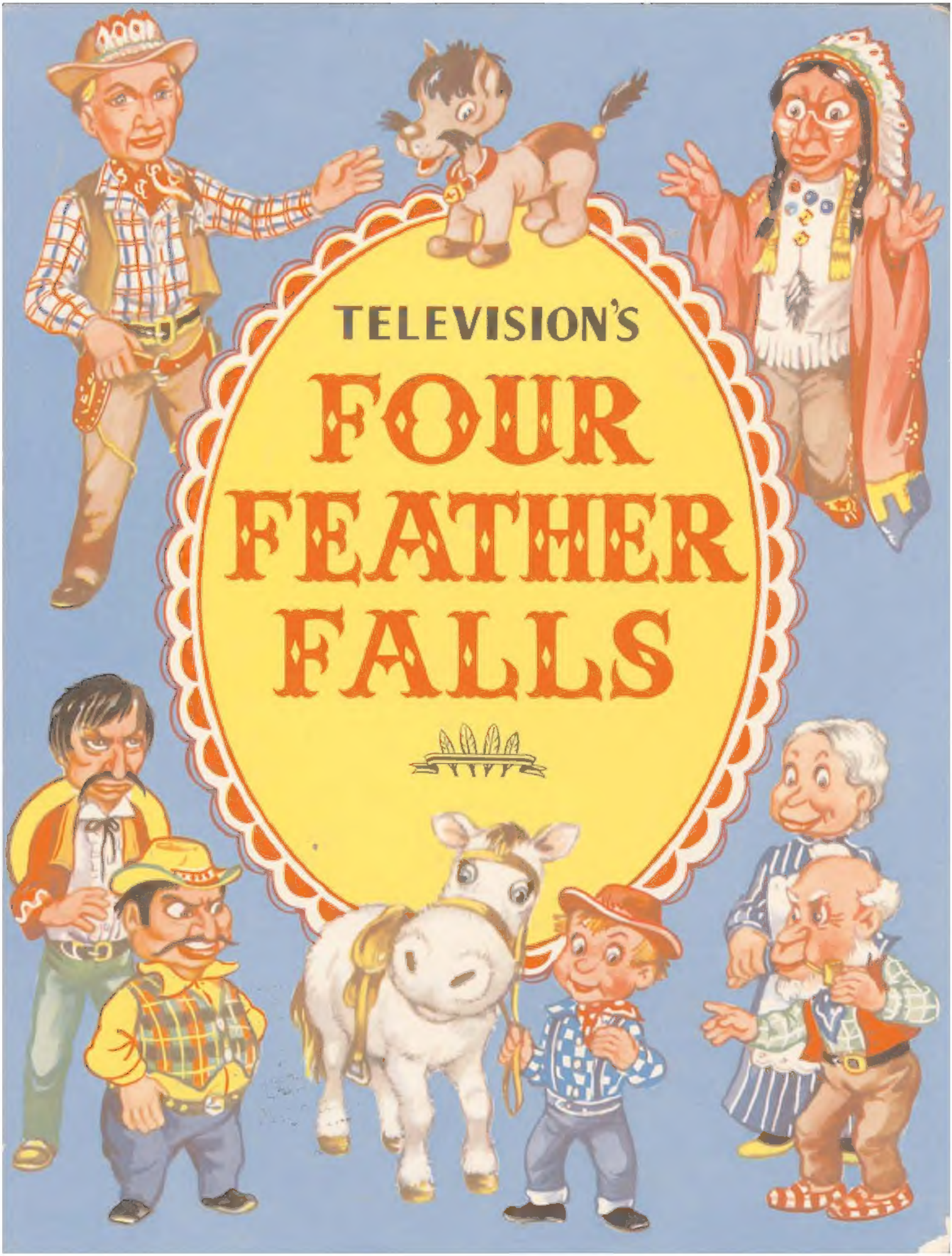
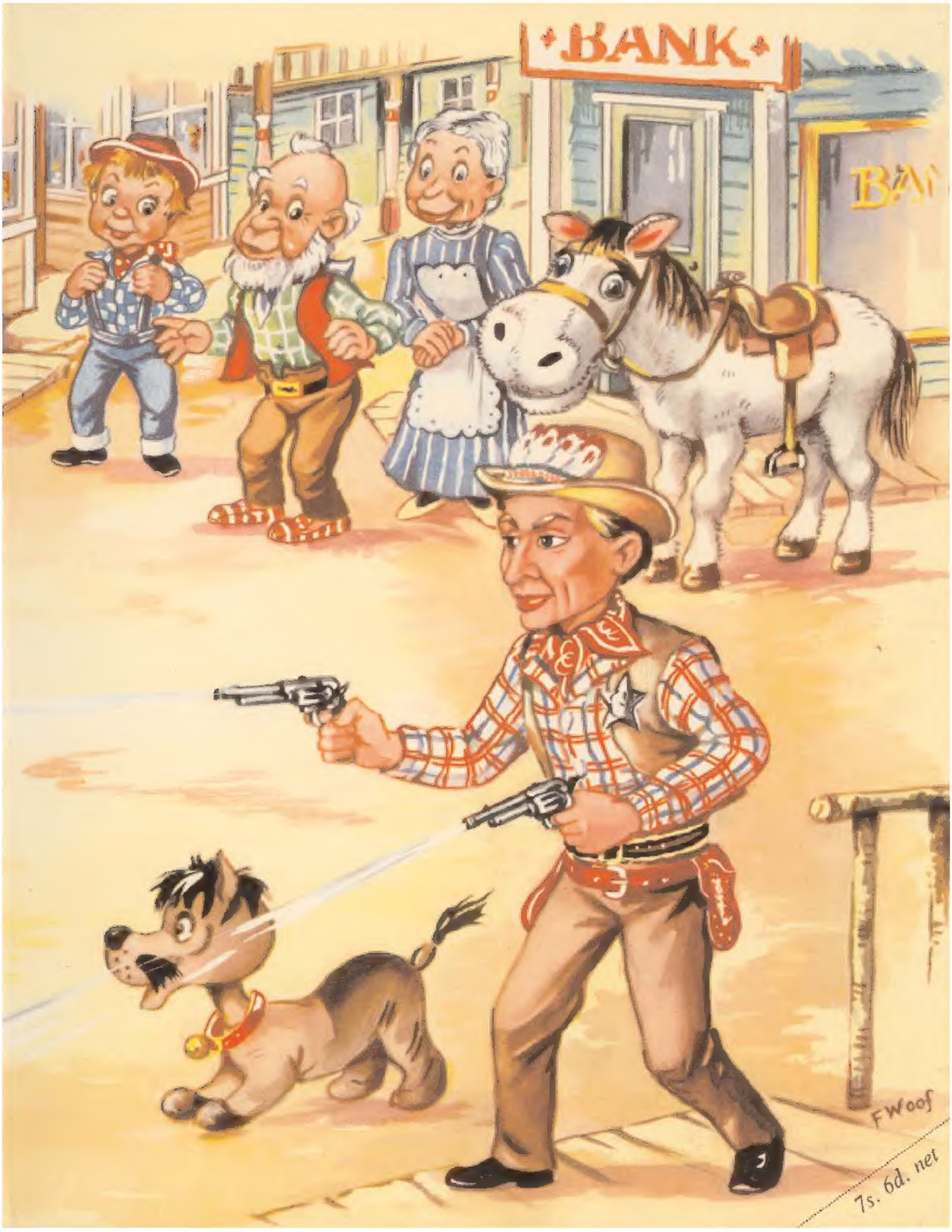

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STORIES BY
SYLVIA THAMM

LONDON COLLINS GLASGOW

THERE STOOD BIG CHIEF KALAMAKOOYA.



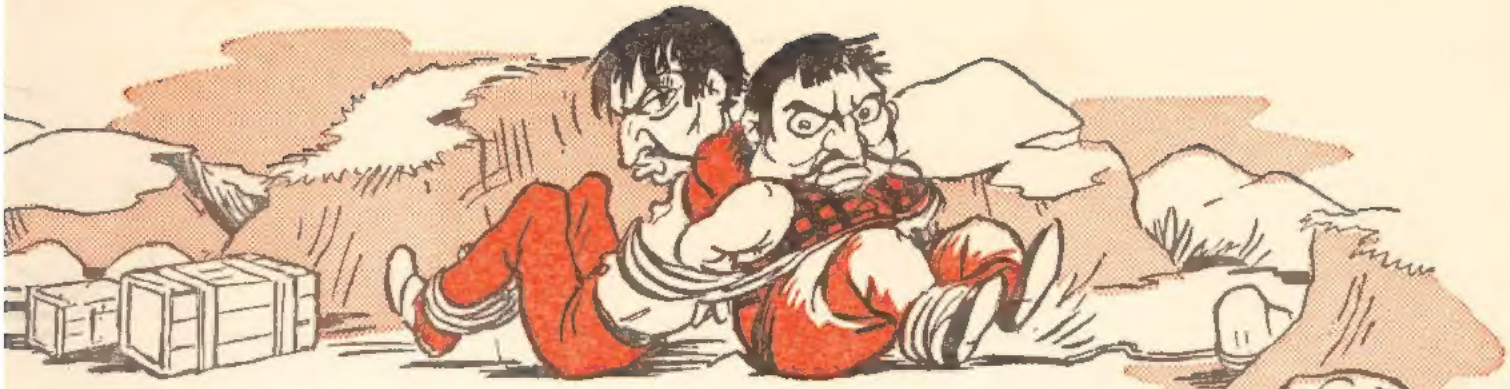
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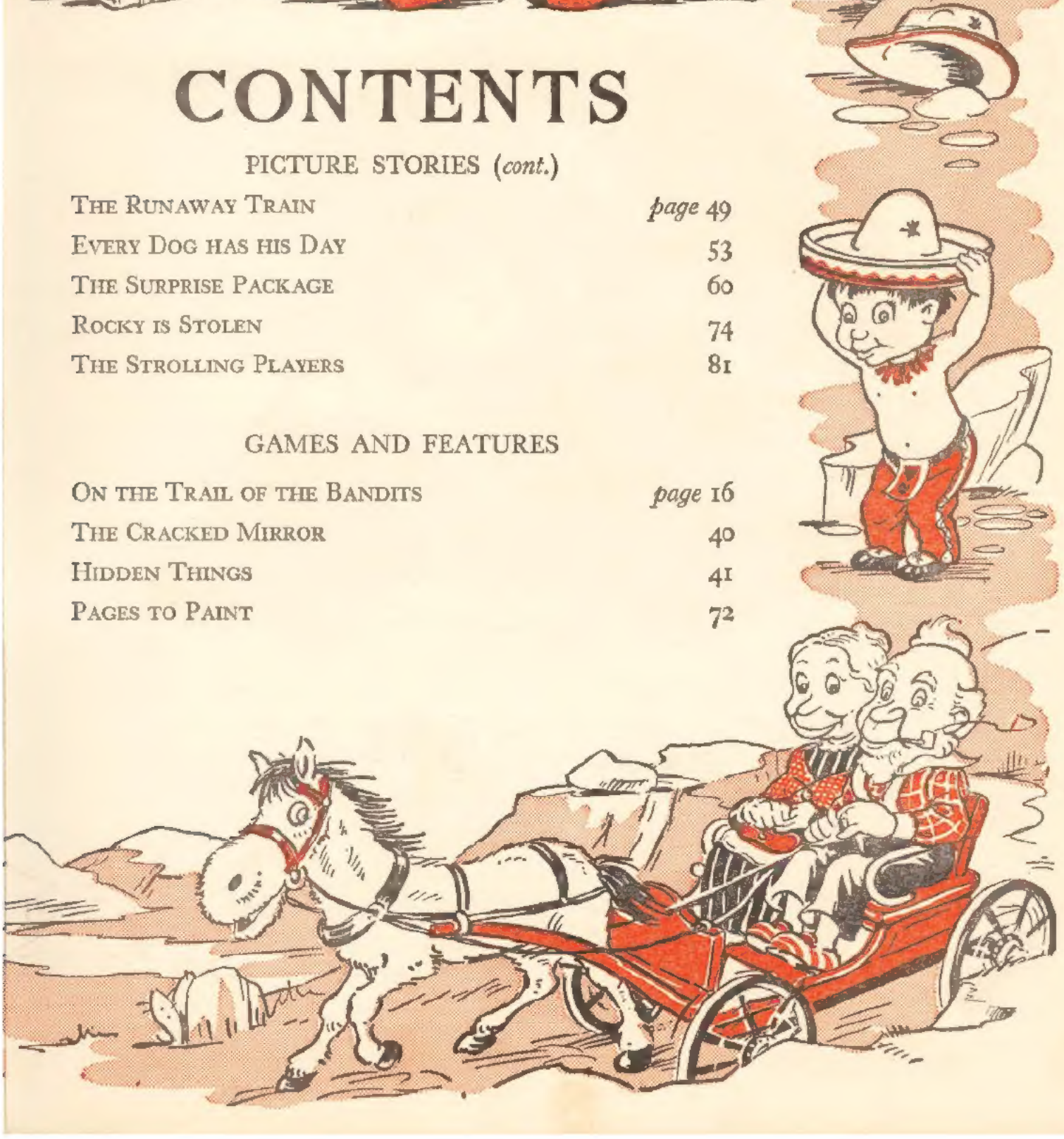
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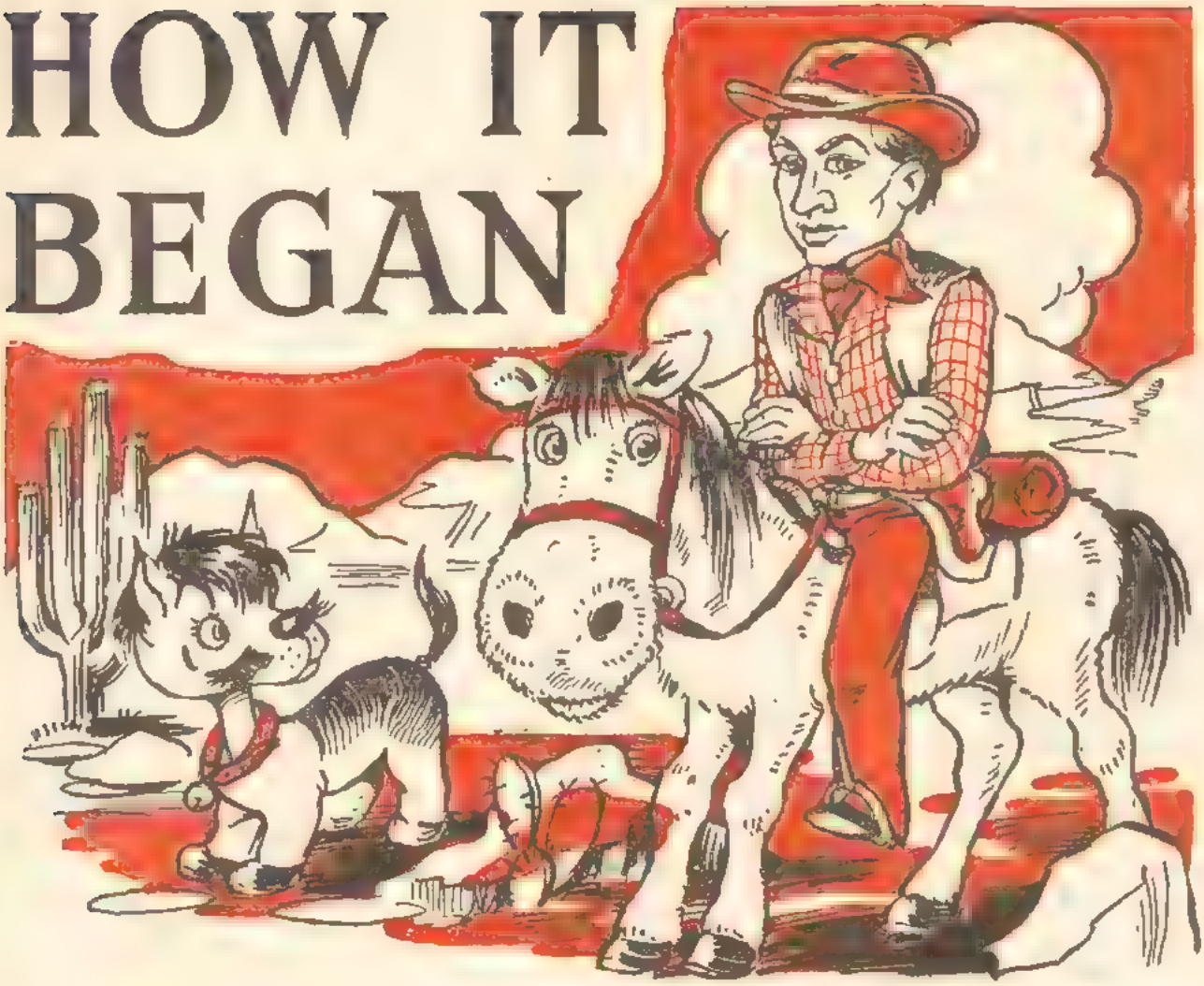
To Catherine

from

Mummy and Daddy.

Xmas. 1960.

HOW IT BEGAN



THERE was once a young cowboy riding West. With him was his horse, Rocky, and his small dog, Dusty.

They had been riding hard for days—their food was almost gone and their water bottles nearly empty. "Looks as if we've gone and lost ourselves, fellas," the cowboy said as he gazed round the lone, barren prairie. "Woof! Woof!" barked Dusty, as if in sympathy. "Sure wish you could talk to me," thought the young man, feeling in need of someone else to speak to.

They rode on, searching for water and some sign of life, but none appeared. Then suddenly Dusty started to bark



There was a little Indian boy.

excitedly. He ran up to his master whining and growling as if to say:—"Look what I've found." The cowboy followed where the dog led him, and there, sitting forlornly on a rock all alone, was a little Indian boy.

"Well, I reckon you're the last thing I expected to find out here on the prairie," exclaimed the cowboy. "What's yer name, son?" he asked. "Makooya," replied the little boy. "Me hungry, me lost," he added pathetically. "Well, son, guess you'd better take a drink of water and a bite to eat," said the cowboy, giving the boy the last of the food and water.

After the boy had drunk and eaten, he told the cowboy that he had wandered away from his grandfather, Big Chief Kalamakooya, to go hunting, and had got lost. "We'll try to get you home safely, son," said the cowboy, "but I sure wish we had some water." "Me lead you to waterfall," said Makooya. So the cowboy, his horse and dog and their newly-found friend, set off.

On and on they travelled and finally when they were so exhausted that they could go no farther, Makooya suddenly pointed to the horizon, crying; "Look, the waterfall!" "Where?" cried the cowboy eagerly, and he looked hard

in the direction where Makooya was pointing. But all he could see were rocks. "All dried up," cried Makooya pathetically. It seemed their long, long journey had been in vain. The waterfall had indeed dried up and they were still without water and with little hope of finding any.

"C'mon, fellas," said the cowboy wearily. "Better make our camp here for the night and travel on at sun-up. Now don't worry," he said more cheerfully, seeing their downcast faces, "we'll find water to-morrow—you'll see."

But the cowboy didn't believe what he was saying and lay awake that night long after the others were asleep, desperately thinking of what he could do to save them.

Finally, exhausted, he sank into a troubled sleep. Suddenly he awoke with a start as he heard little Makooya's voice echoing round the rocks. "KALAMAKOOYA!" As if in answer to his call there was a flash of lightning and a burst of thunder and there stood BIG CHIEF KALAMAKOOYA!



Big Chief Kalamakooya appeared!



The two guns fired!

He was overjoyed at finding his grandson again and when he heard how the young cowboy had saved his life, he asked him how he could repay him. But the cowboy wanted no reward but food and water. Kalamakooya raised his arms dramatically and with a gesture, produced wonderful orchards of trees in the place of the barren prairie, with water flowing from the waterfall once again.

And then turning to the cowboy, he said: "And now you shall be rewarded." He handed him two feathers and immediately the cowboy's two guns swivelled in their

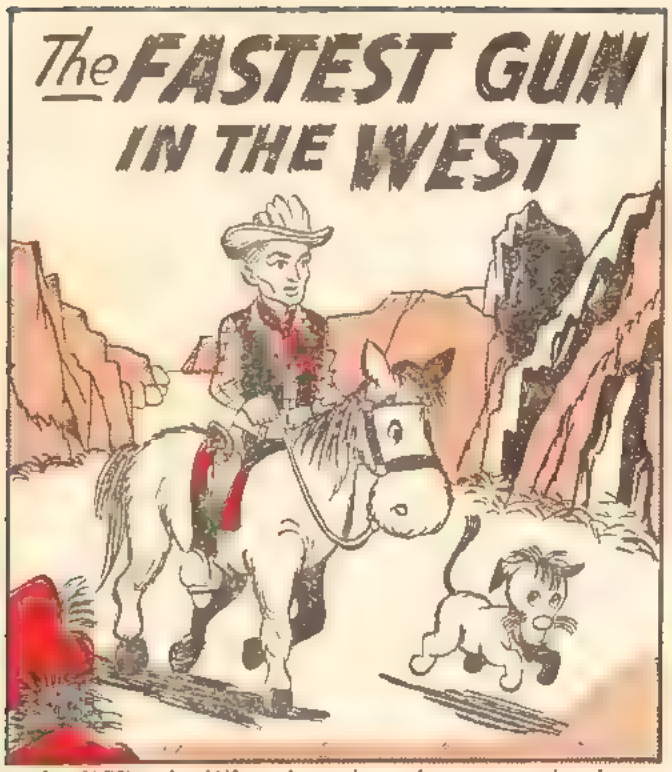
holsters and fired without him even touching them! As he held the third and fourth feathers the cowboy's dearest wish came true. His horse and dog were able to speak.

It was the most wonderful day for the three friends. And it was to be the beginning of a new chapter in their lives.

The young man stayed on and became the Sheriff of the town which grew up, called Four Feather Falls, so named because of the waterfall and the four magic feathers. And the young cowboy's name? Well, if you haven't already guessed, it was Tex Tucker and it was to become the most famous name in the West.



The FASTEST GUN IN THE WEST



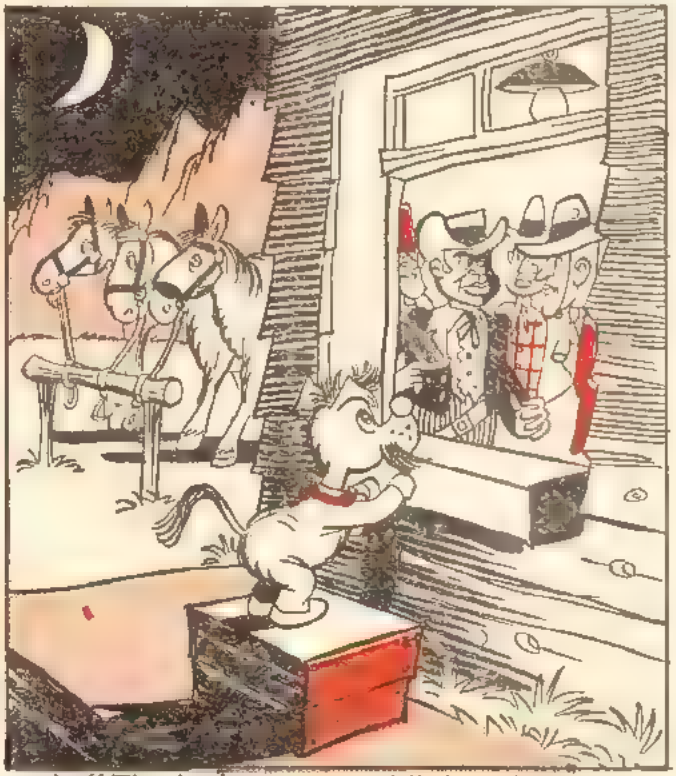
1. "Think I'll take the short-cut back, Boss," said Dusty to Tex one day as they were riding home to Four Feather Fa ls.



2. "O.K. Dusty," said Tex. "but mind you don't get lost. It's almost sundown and it's mighty lonesome round here."



3. Dusty went off, but very soon he found that instead of being near the town, he was approaching Big Ben's shack!



4. "This looks interestin'," thought Dusty as he peeped in at the window. There were a lot of men in there, talking.



5. "I'm getting tired of this Tucker guy," said a rough-looking man. "I want him out of the way."



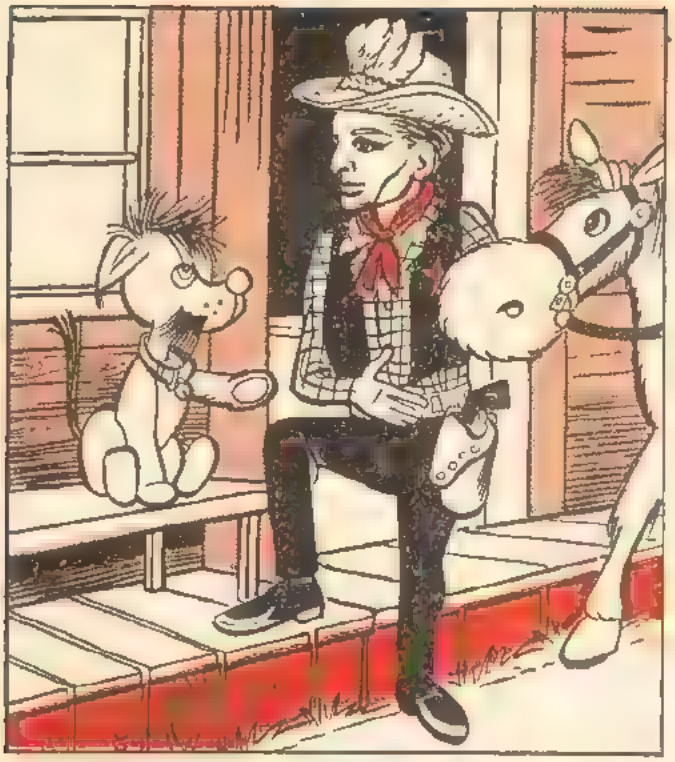
6. "But how can we fight his magic guns?" asked Big Ben. "Easy," said the other man. "We just outnumber him, that's all."



7. Meanwhile Tex and Rocky were worried about Dusty. "I say," said Rocky, "I do hope the little chap's all right."



8. "Here he is now!" said Tex in a relieved voice, as Dusty ran up to him. "Sure glad to see you, old timer."



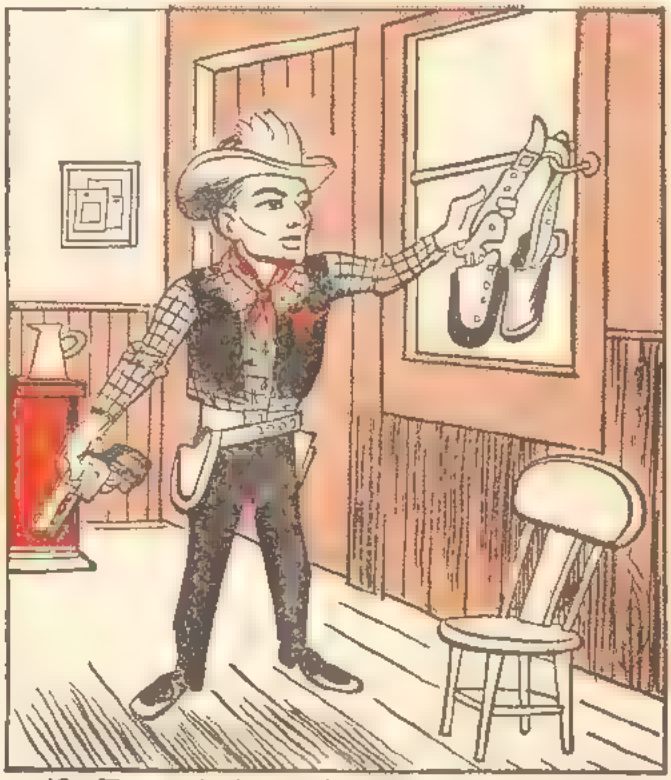
9. "Boss," panted Dusty, "Ben and his gang are comin' to shoot you down. You gotta leave town—fast!"



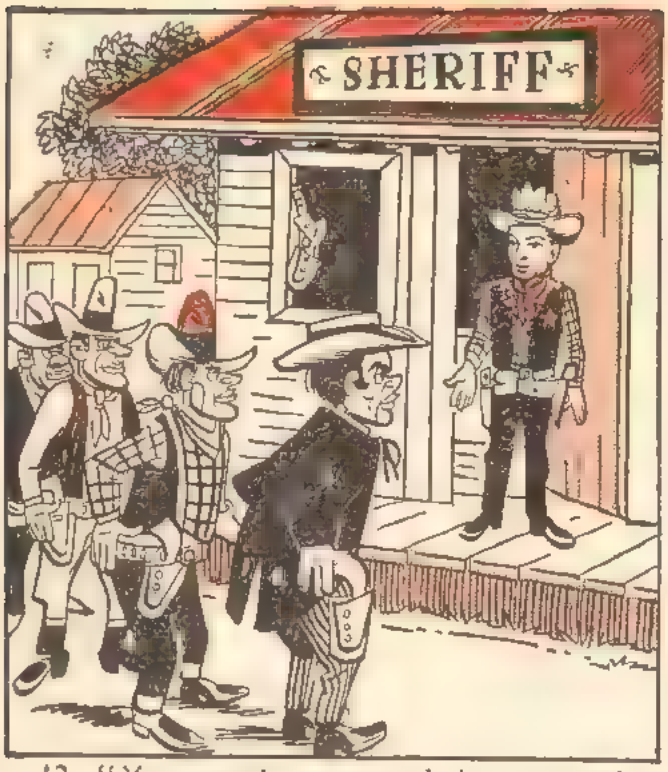
10. "You know I can't leave town, Dusty," said Tex grimly. "I'm the Sheriff and I'll be right here waitin' for 'em."



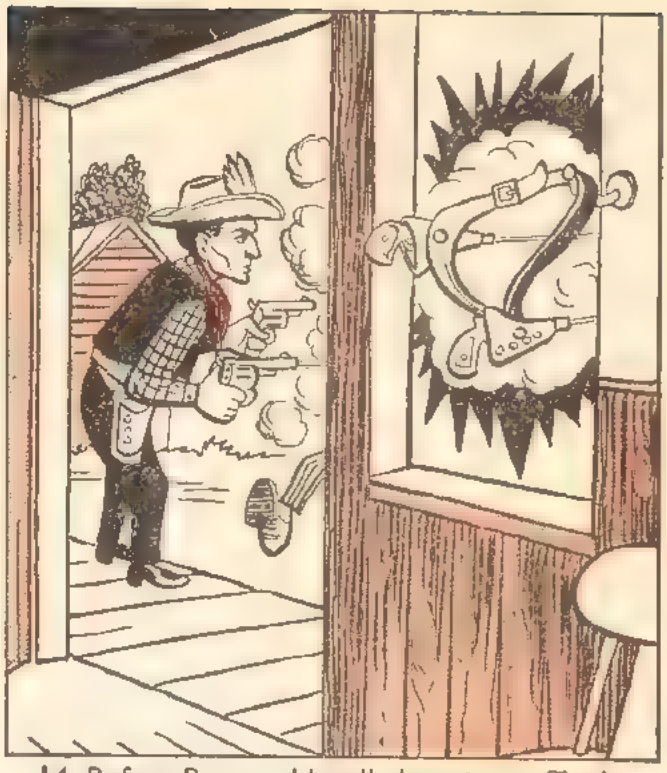
11. Several days later, Ben and his gang rode into town, firing their guns and shouting, "C'mon out, Tex Tucker!"



12. Tex calmly took off his magic guns and hung them by the window. Then he picked up two other guns and walked out.



13. "Your magic guns won't be any good now, Tex Tucker," sneered Ben, "you're outnumbered." And he drew his gun.



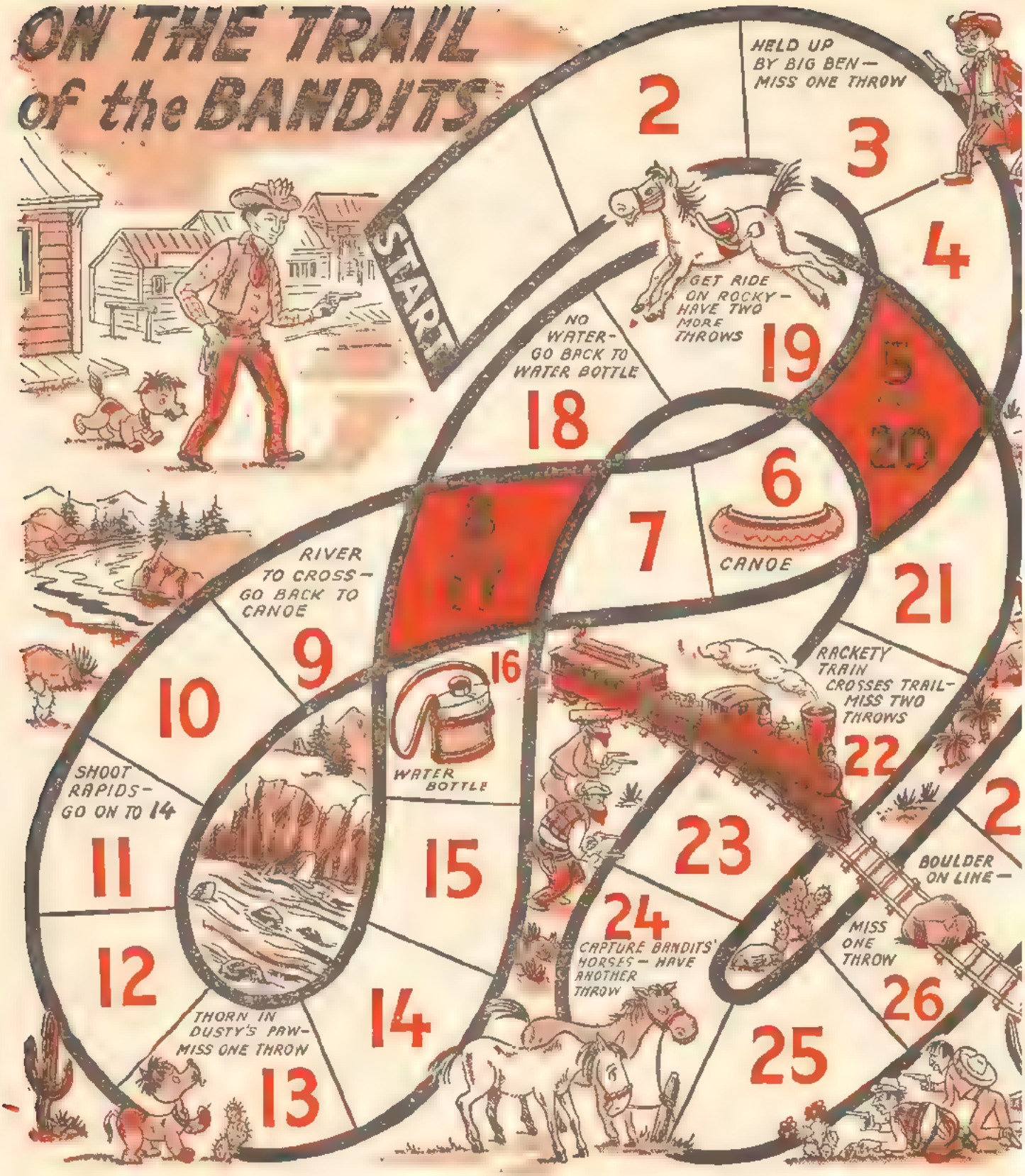
14. Before Ben could pull the trigger, Tex's guns were firing, one from each hand, and the magic guns in the window.



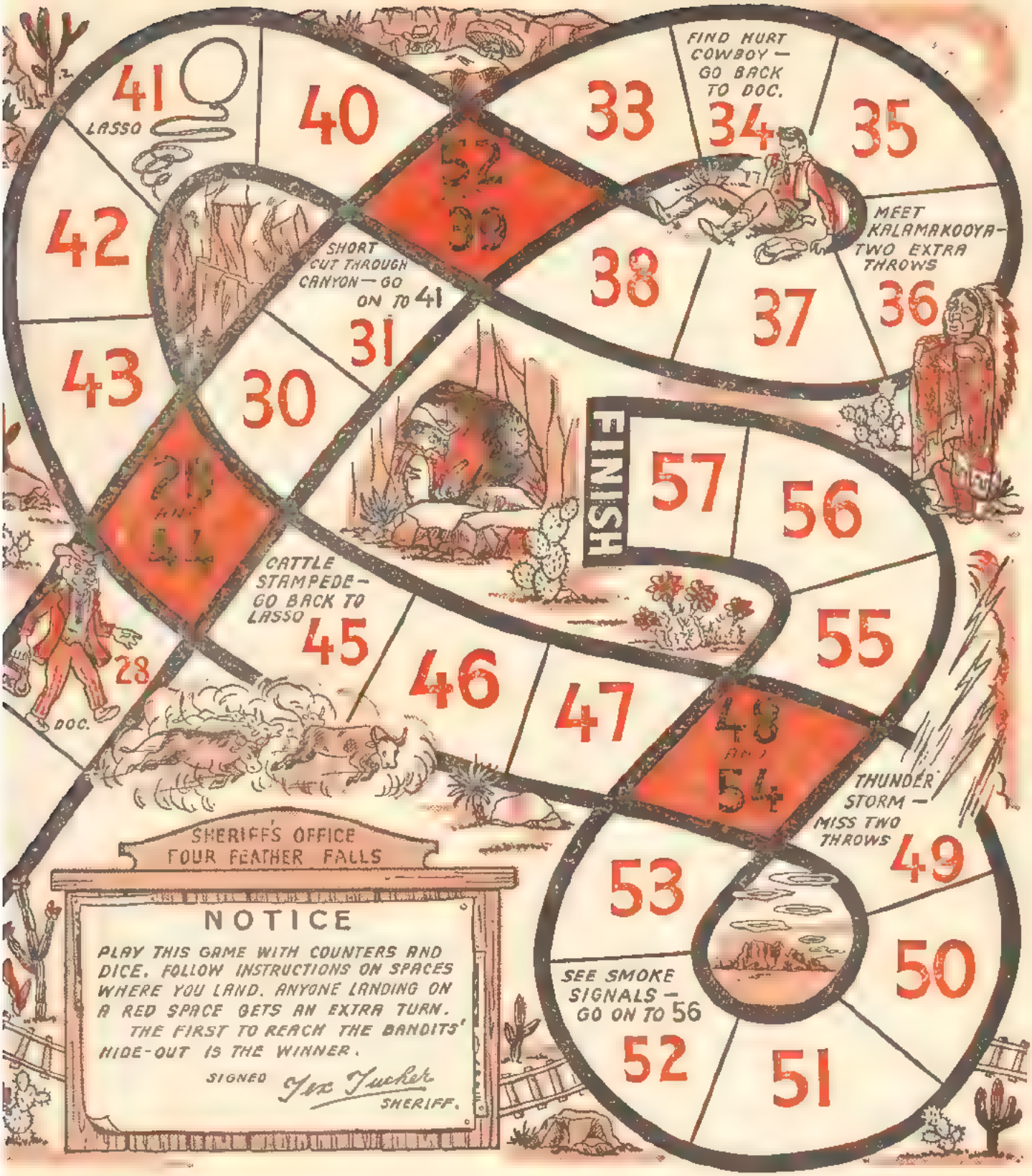
15. Before you could say "Tex Tucker" the guns had been shot from the gang's hands. "Don't shoot no more!" they cried.



16. "Guess they forgot about the magic guns," said Dusty, "but even without them Tex Tucker is the fastest gun in the West!"

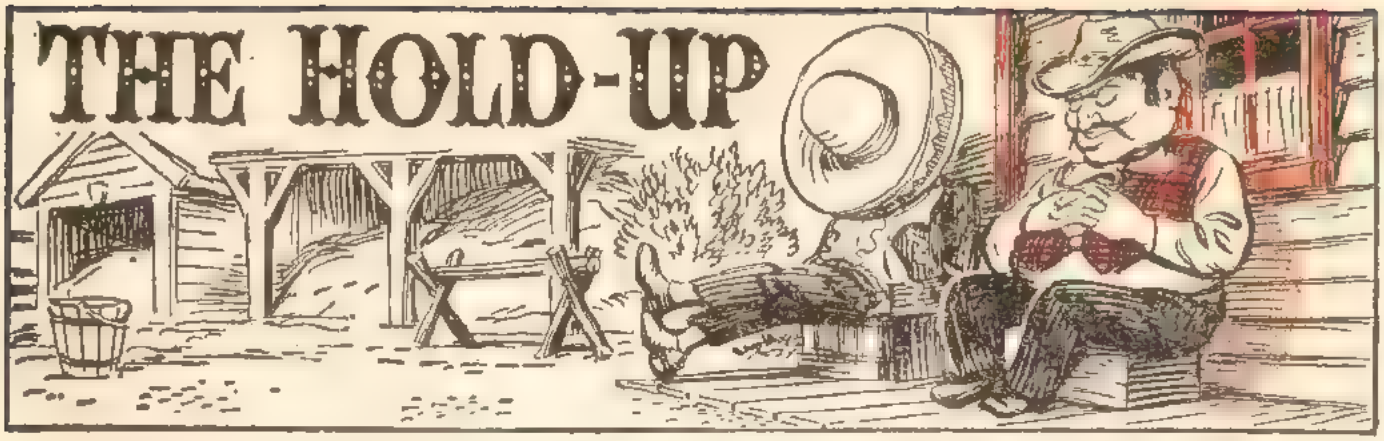


Here is a jolly board-game for two, three or four players.

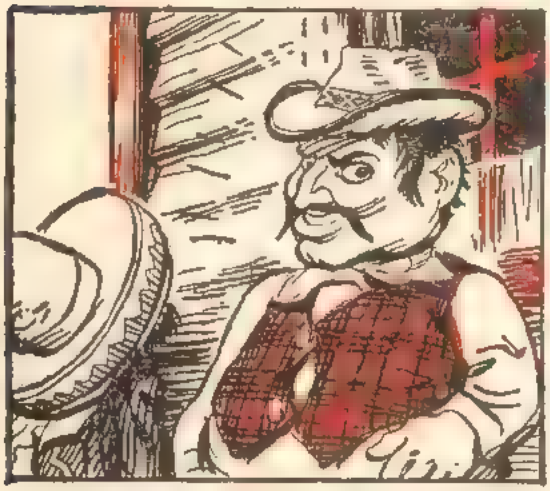


You will find the instructions on the notice-board.

THE HOLD-UP



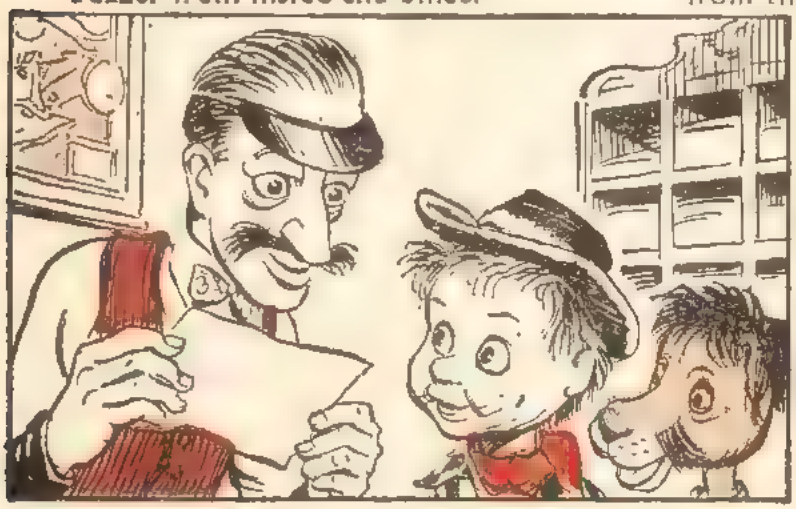
1. It was a hot summer's day in the sleepy little town of Four Feather Falls. Pedro and Fernando, the bandits, were sound asleep outside the Telegraph Office. They had just had a very good lunch, and were now dreaming of gun-fights and gold, and how one day they would capture Tex Tucker, the Sheriff of Four Feather Falls.



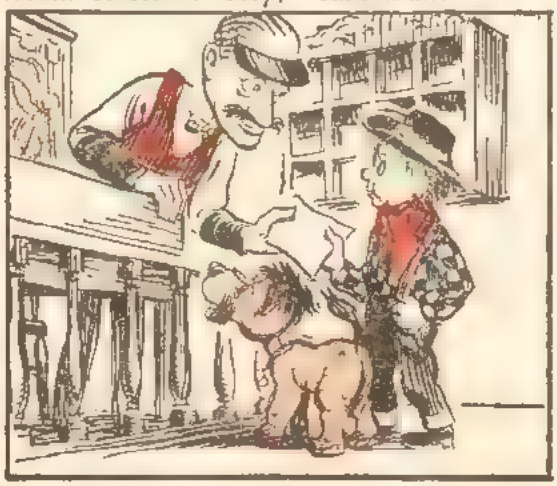
2. Suddenly Pedro jerked awake. He heard the sound of a Morse buzzer from inside the office.



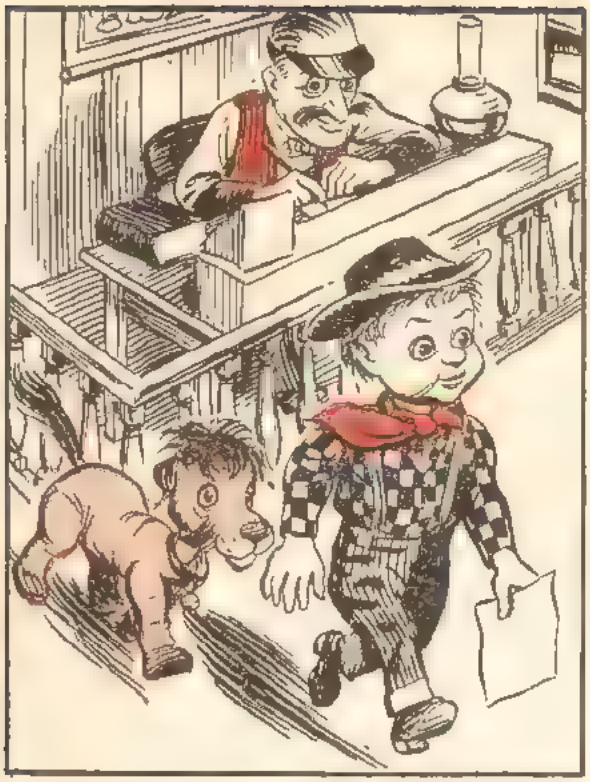
3. Dan Morse was taking down the message while Jake and Dusty stood by. "It's a message for Tex from the Sheriff of Silver City," said Dan.



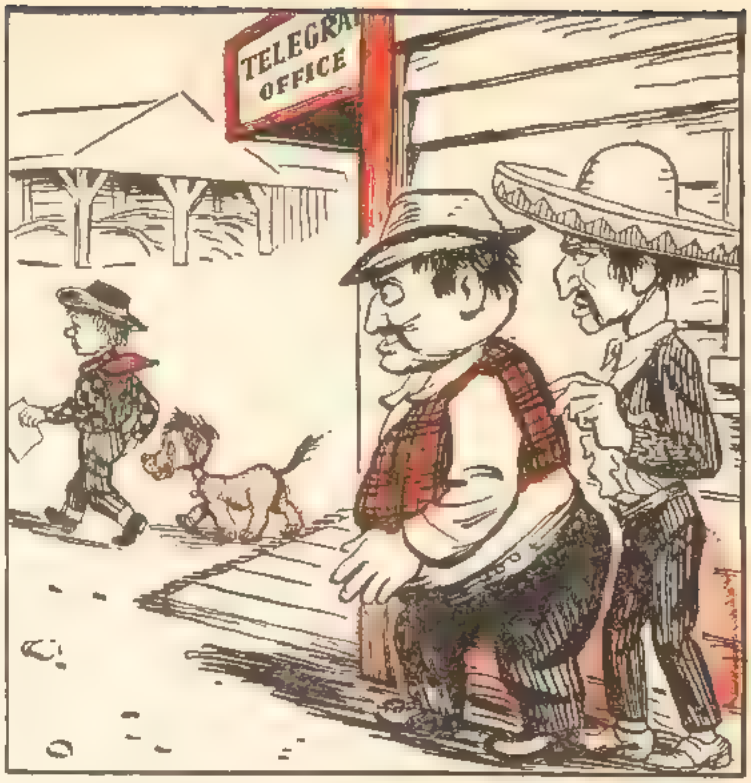
4. Dan read out the message to young Jake and Dusty. It said, "Meet the Stagecoach carrying gold, at Hynes Bend, to-day at 3 p.m."



5. "Take this message along to Tex right away, will you, Jake," said Dan, "'cos it's real important."



6. "Sure thing, Mr. Morse," said Jake. "C'mon, boy." Dusty barked and followed Jake out of the office.



7. "Sure hope Tex is around," said Jake. "There's a lot of gold on that coach." But Jake didn't know that the bandits were listening!



8. Tex wasn't in, and after a while Jake said, "I can't wait much longer. Grandpa Twink will be gettin' anxious."



9. "Reckon I'll leave the message on Tex's desk, Dusty," said Jake. "Guess he'll be back soon."



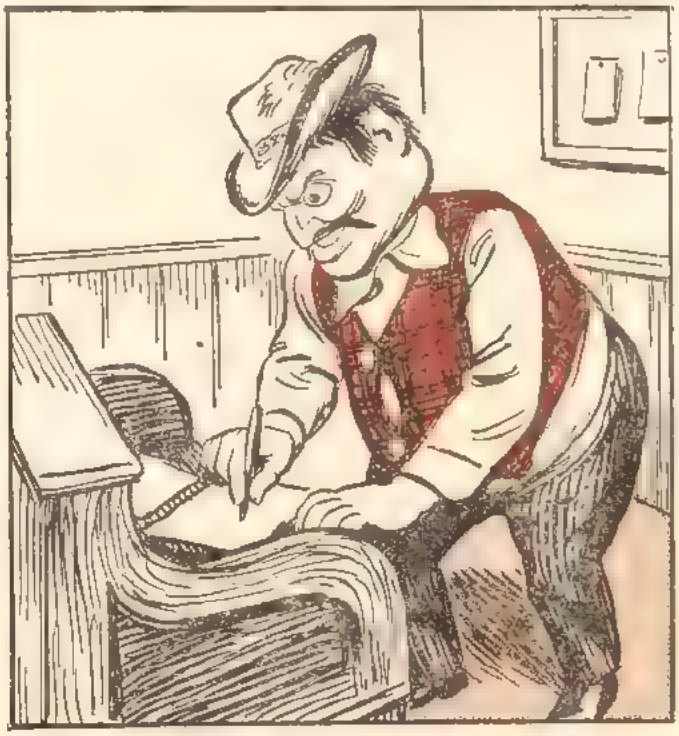
10. "All right, Fernando, the coast's-a clear," whispered Pedro to Fernando. "Now begins my *beeg* plan!"



11. "Now, Fernando, keep-a-da-watch," instructed Pedro, as he climbed through the window into Tex's office.



12. "I don't like thees! I don't like thees at all," wailed Fernando miserably as he stood waiting by himself.



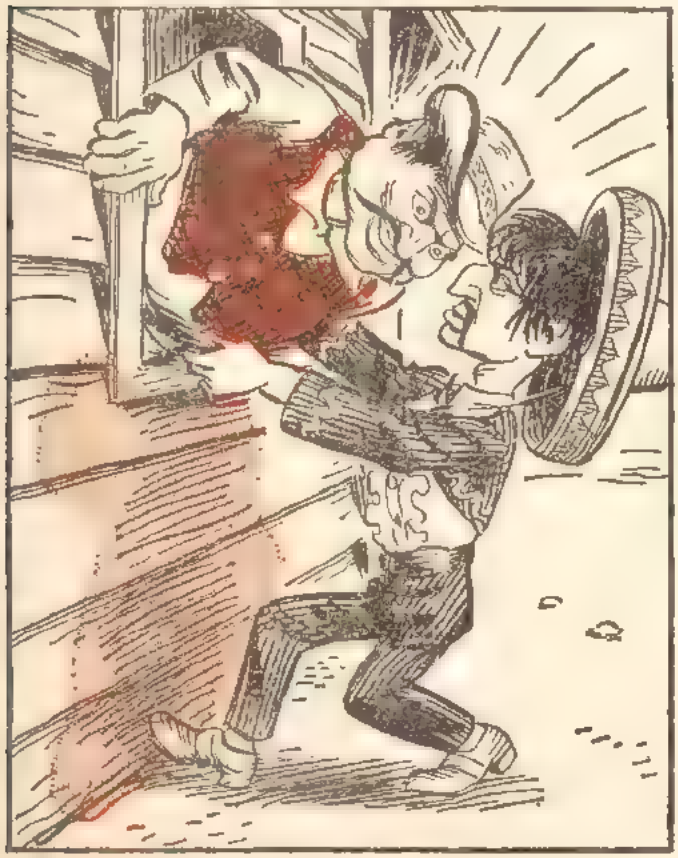
13. Meanwhile, Pedro was writing a fake message. "Meet Stagecoach carrying gold at Hynes Bend at *seex* o'clock."



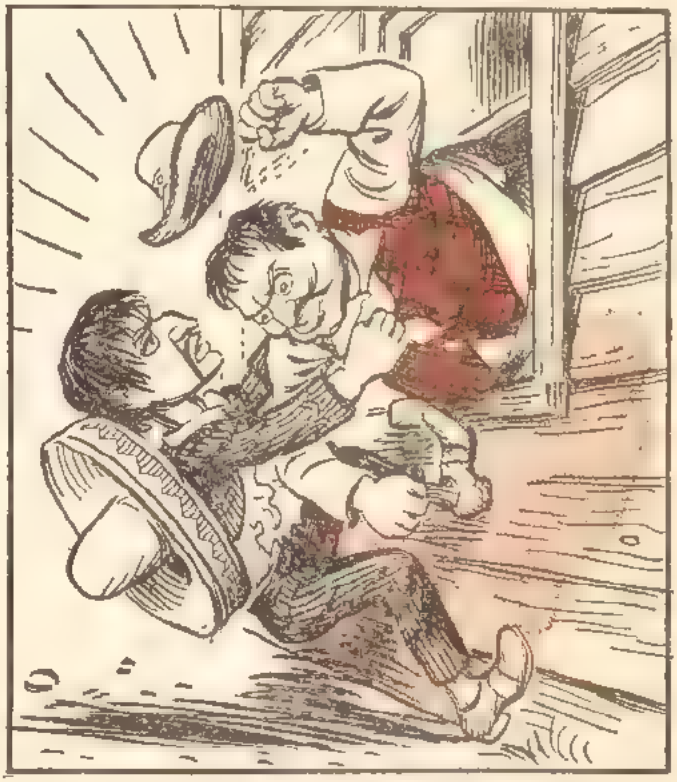
14. "Ha, ha, ha!" laughed Pedro. "I've feexed you thees time, Mr. Tex Tucker!"



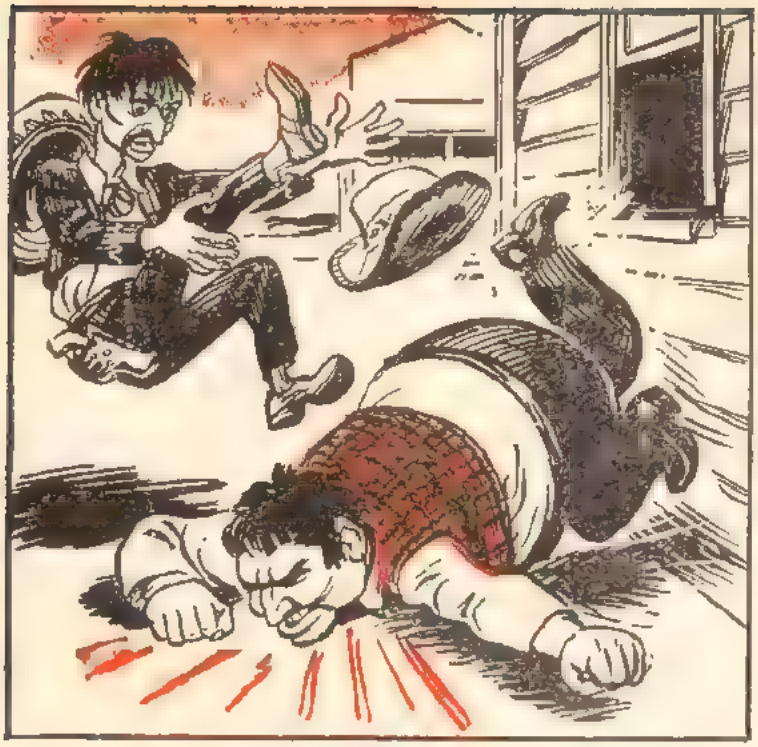
15. Suddenly Fernando saw Dusty coming down the street. "Quick, amigo, come out!" he shouted in a panic.



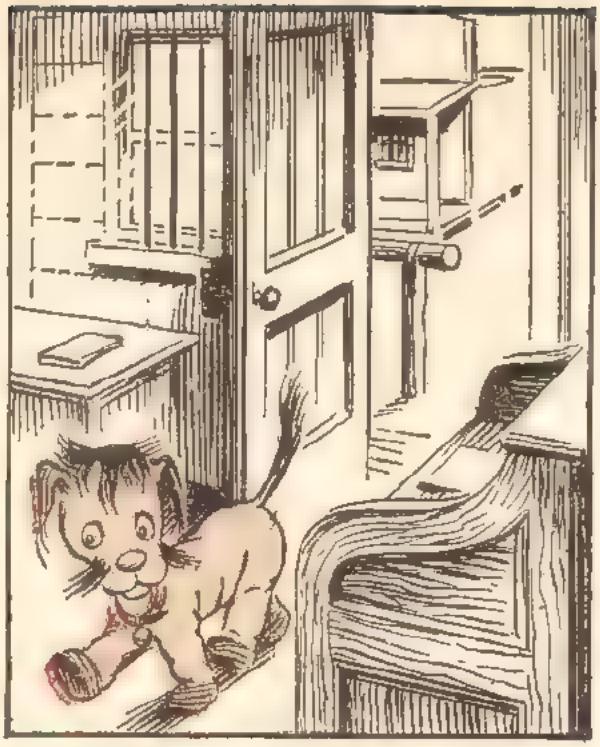
16. But Pedro was in too much of a hurry and he stuck in the window. "Ouch, oooh! Sacramento!" he yelled.



17. Pedro became furious. "Idiota! Imbecile!" he raged at poor Fernando who was trying to pull him through.



18. At last, and only just in time, Fernando managed to free Pedro, who fell to the ground with a bump just as Dusty entered the office.



19. "Gotta guard the message for Tex," thought Dusty, but of course he didn't know that he was too late.



20. Meanwhile, Pedro and Fernando were riding out towards Hynes Bend to meet the Stagecoach with the gold.



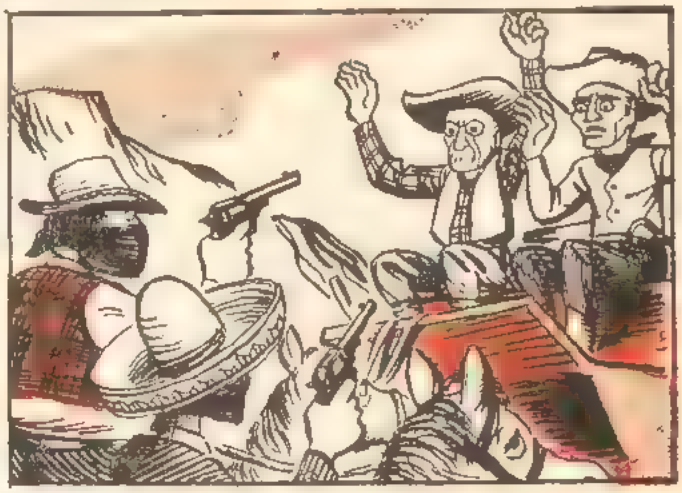
21 "Pedro's real smart, eh, Fernando?" said Pedro. "Soon we will 'ave all the gold, and Tex Tucker will be miles away."



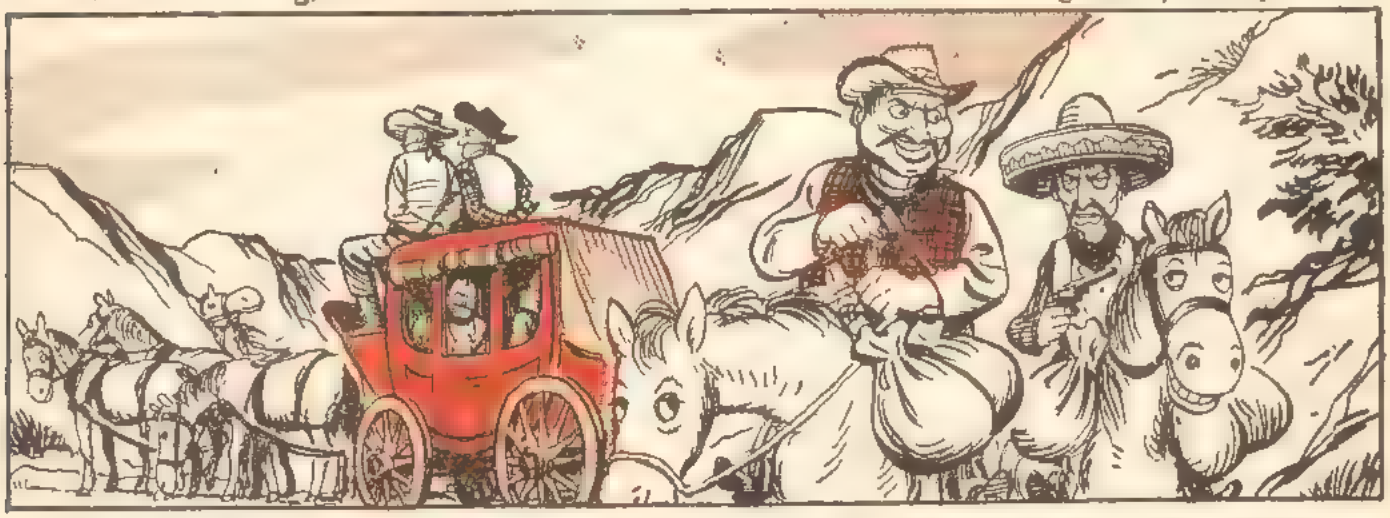
22. Suddenly Fernando shouted, "Look, there's the Stagecoach!" Pedro nodded. "Queeck, Fernando, put on your mask over your face. Soon we will be reech!"



23. The two bandits rode towards the Stagecoach firing into the air as they did so and shouting, "Olé! Olé! Olé!"



24. "Steeck 'em up," commanded Pedro as the coach pulled up in front of them, "and 'and over ze gold—queeckly!"



25. Soon Pedro and Fernando had collected all the gold and tied it to their horses. "Ha! ha!" laughed Pedro. "Sheriff Tex will have a leetle surprise when he . . ."



26. "That's where you're wrong, Pedro," cut in the voice of Tex Tucker. "I know all about your plan. Now drop them guns pronto, and reach for the sky."



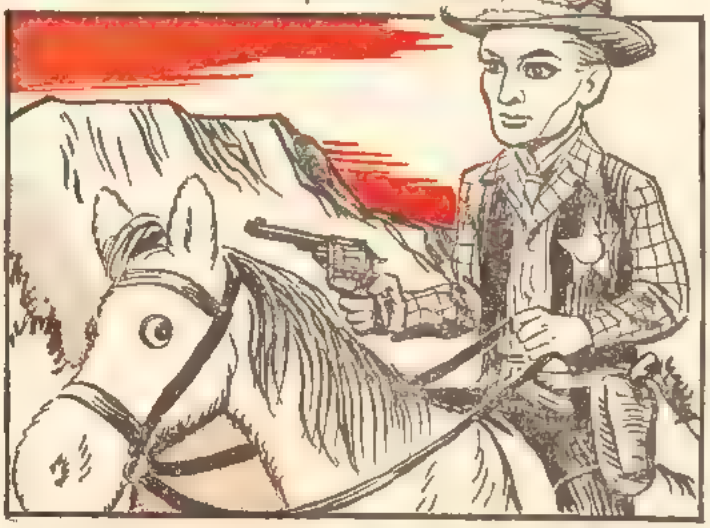
27. The bandits were completely amazed and horrified. "Tex Tucker!" cried Pedro, and dropped his gun with a loud clang.



28. "Tex Tucker!" wailed Fernando miserably, and his moustache drooped mournfully.

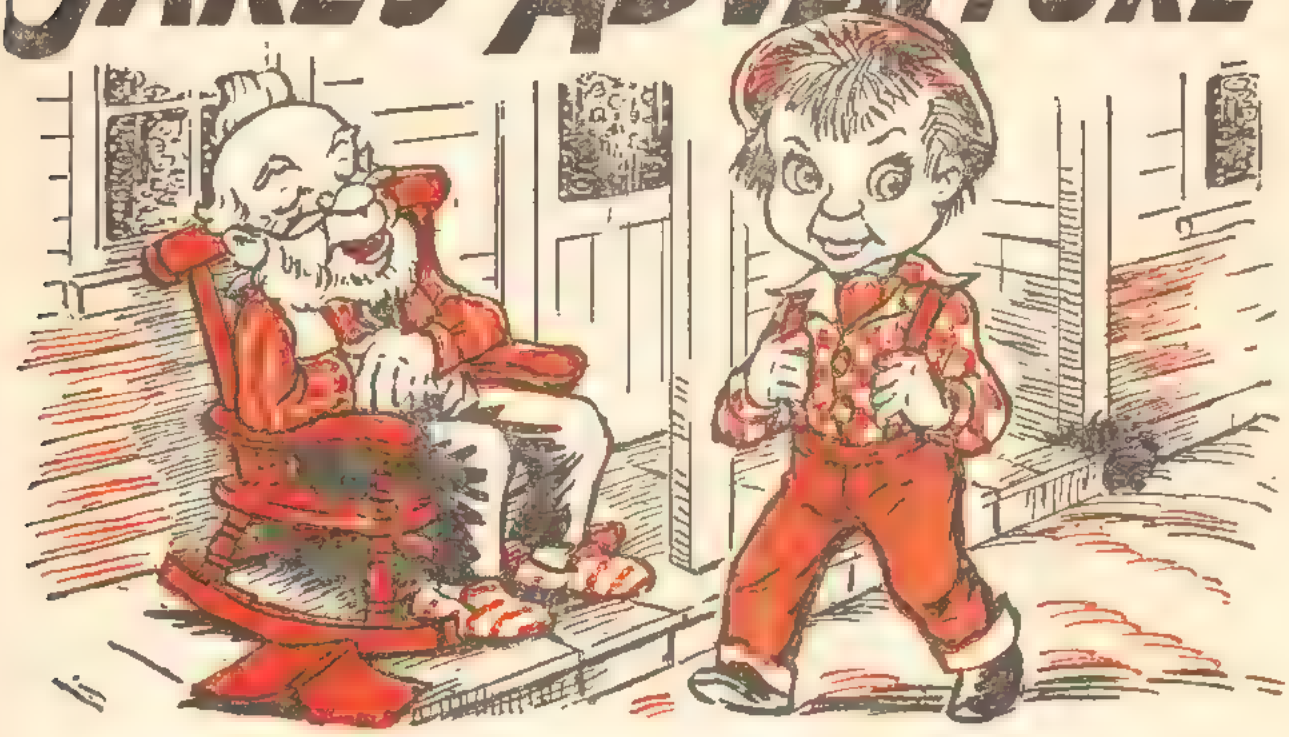


29. "The next time you leave a phony message, Pedro, make sure you spell it right," said Tex.



30. "You're the only hombre around here who'd write SEEX," said Tex. "Now get goin' and I'll teach you how to spell in jail."

JAKE'S ADVENTURE



IT WAS a very hot day in Four Feather Falls, and Grandpa Twink was fast asleep on the porch of his house.

But Little Jake wasn't a bit sleepy. He decided he would go for a walk and visit the Sheriff, Tex Tucker.

As he walked, he started to day-dream. He imagined he was a grown man and was a Sheriff, and that all the bandits for miles around were afraid of him. He had a big white hat and a white horse just like Tex's horse, Rocky, and magic guns that fired without him even touching them. Everyone came to Sheriff Jake for help, and his town was the best in the West for law and order.

By the time Jake reached the Sheriff's office, he was so far away in his dreams that he had quite forgotten that he was still a little boy who didn't even have a horse of his own

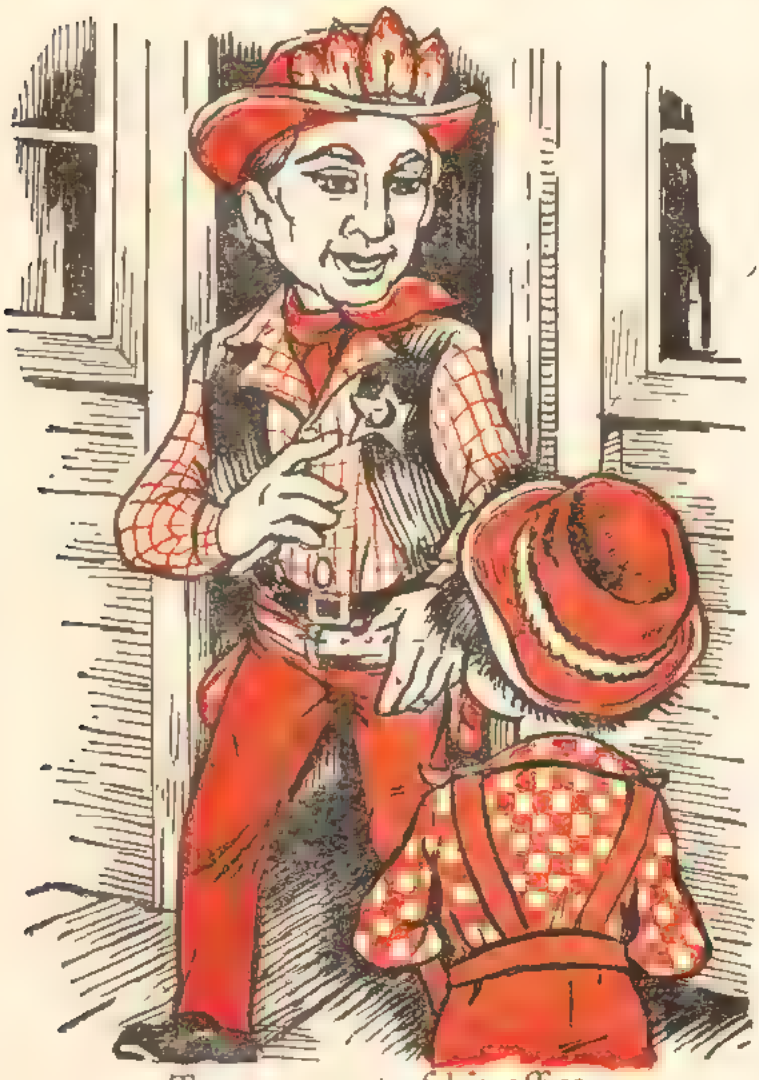
or any guns, and that no one was afraid of him at all. Just at that moment Tex Tucker came out of his office.

"Hallo, Little Jake," said Tex, "you look as if you're dreaming!"

"Oh, hallo, Sheriff," said Jake, rather startled, "I guess I was dreaming—I just came over to see you."

"I'm going over to the Bank, Jake, stay here awhile —Dusty and Rocky will keep you company," said Tex.

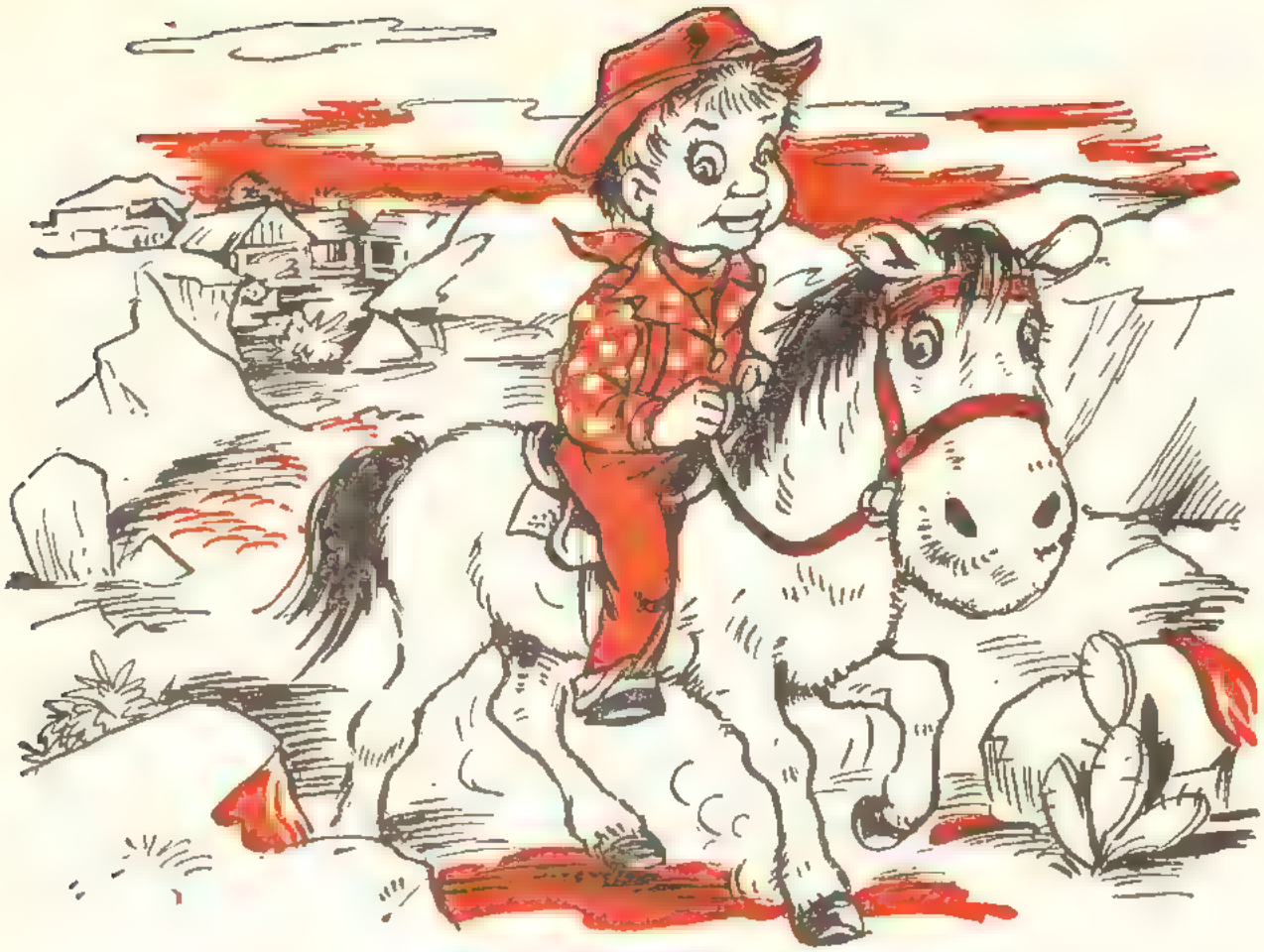
Rocky neighed and Dusty barked as if in agreement with Tex, because although they could talk to each other, no one could hear them but Tex Tucker.



Tex came out of his office.

Jake sat down and looked at Rocky and Dusty and said: "Gee! I wish I could understand you—I'm feeling a bit lonely, all the grown-ups are too busy to talk to me."

Rocky and Dusty neighed and barked in sympathy. They knew just how Jake felt because they were animals, and people often forgot that animals have feelings as well.

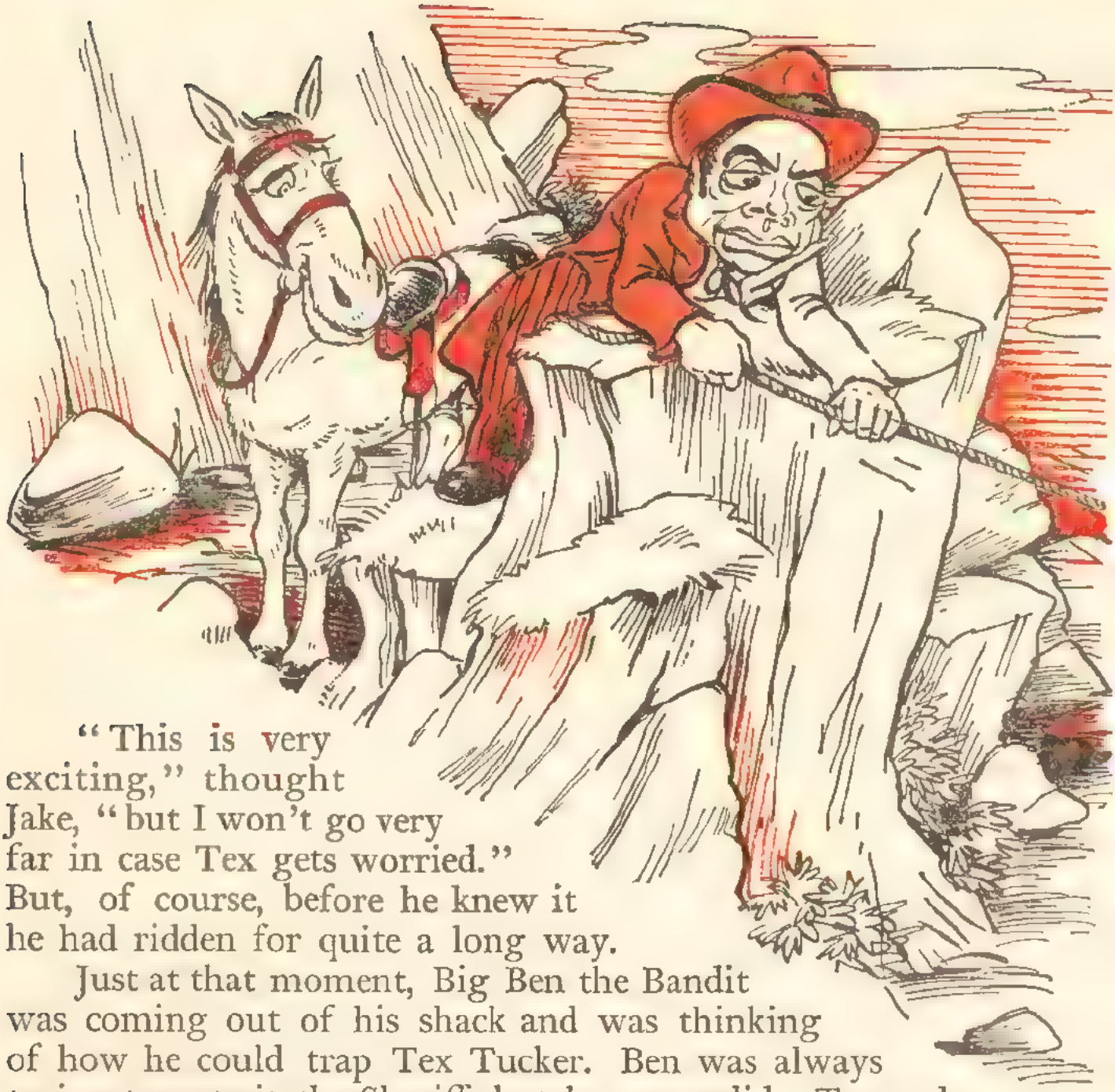


Jake rode out of town.

Suddenly Jake had an idea—he would play Sheriffs and he would borrow Rocky and go for a little ride. He didn't think Tex would mind.

Quickly he climbed on to Rocky and pulled on the reins. "Come on, Rocky, we'll go for a ride out towards Silver City—we might even see some bandits." Rocky started to trot obediently.

Dusty was very alarmed when he heard this. He knew that Little Jake might get into danger with all the bandits like Pedro and Big Ben around. He barked furiously; as if to warn them not to go, but Jake did not pay any attention as he rode out of town.



"This is very exciting," thought Jake, "but I won't go very far in case Tex gets worried." But, of course, before he knew it he had ridden for quite a long way.

Just at that moment, Big Ben the Bandit was coming out of his shack and was thinking of how he could trap Tex Tucker. Ben was always trying to outwit the Sheriff, but he never did. Tex and his magic guns were too clever for him. But it seemed that this time luck was with him because as he looked down on the pass below he saw Jake riding along, all alone!

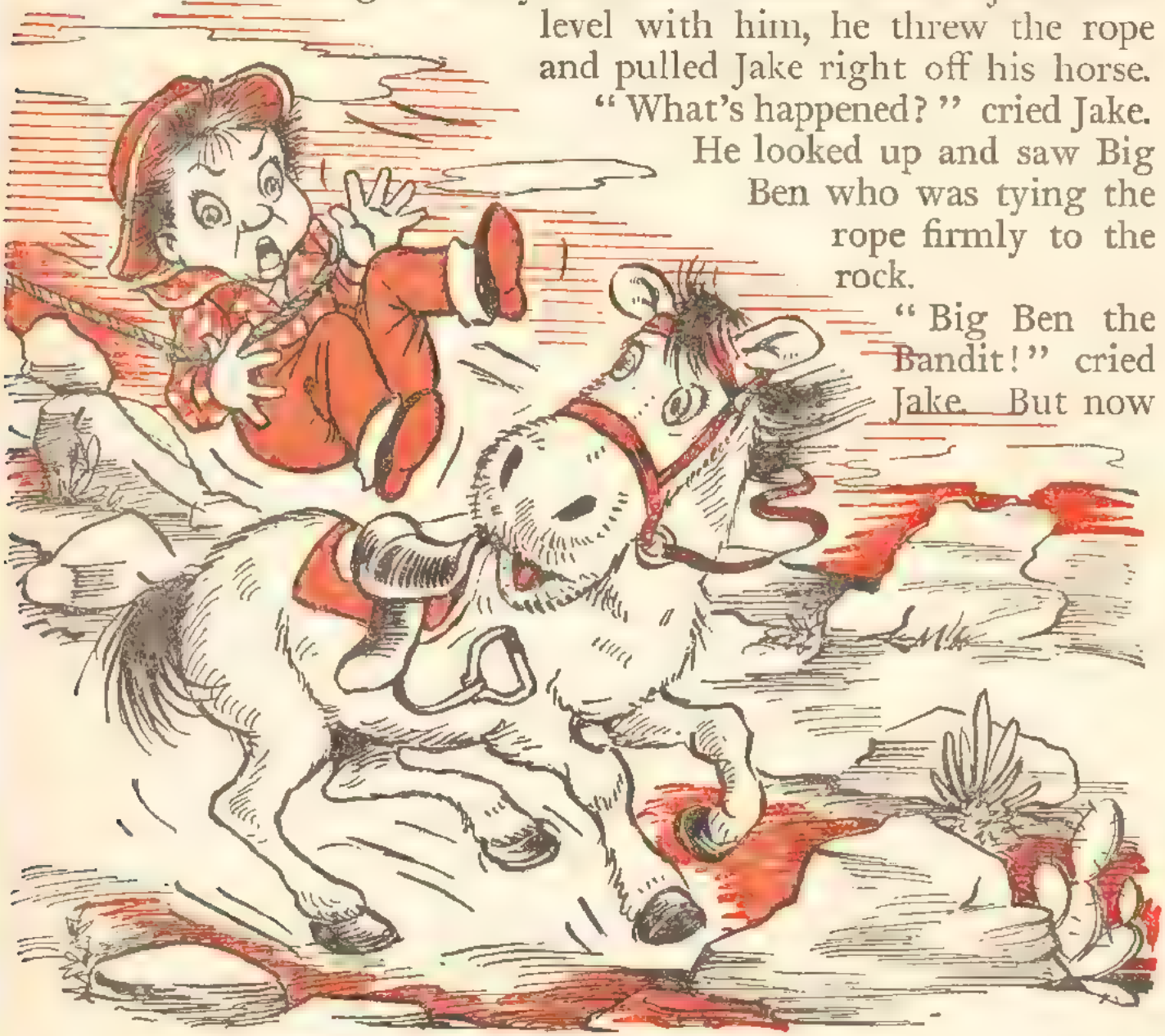
Very quickly Ben jumped on his horse and rode ahead

of little Jake, who was riding along happily not knowing that he was being watched from above.

Big Ben stopped his horse and waited silently for Little Jake, who was now approaching right under the rocks where Ben was hiding. Slowly he raised his lasso and as Jake drew level with him, he threw the rope and pulled Jake right off his horse.

"What's happened?" cried Jake. He looked up and saw Big Ben who was tying the rope firmly to the rock.

"Big Ben the Bandit!" cried Jake. But now



He threw the rope and pulled Jake right off his horse!

he was very afraid and he was no longer a brave sheriff.

"I must be brave," thought Jake. But he was finding it very hard. Big Ben was climbing down the rock towards him. Little Jake looked around for Rocky, but he was nowhere to be seen.

"Even Rocky has deserted me," thought Jake.

Meanwhile, back in Four Feather Falls, Tex Tucker was returning to his office when Dusty ran out to meet him.

"Boss, Boss! Little Jake's gone with Rocky!" barked Dusty.

"With Rocky!" cried Tex. "Where have they gone?"

"I don't know for sure, Boss," said Dusty, "but Jake said something about heading for Silver City. They've been gone a long time, Boss. I'm kinda worried."

Just then they heard the sound of hooves, and Rocky appeared galloping down the street as fast as his legs could carry him.

"Do come quickly, old bean!" panted Rocky in his English accent. "Jake is being held prisoner by that beastly bandit, Big Ben."

Even as he was talking, Tex had jumped on Rocky's back and started to ride off.

"Hey! Wait for me!" barked Dusty. And he too jumped on to Rocky's back and they all rode away in a cloud of dust to rescue Jake.

Big Ben, of course, knew nothing about this, and was taking Jake to his shack to hold him prisoner. "I'll send a note to Tex Tucker," said Ben, "and make him come out to get you, and then I'll shoot him down."

"If only I could warn Tex," thought Jake anxiously.



Tex dropped his guns on the ground.

"I'm going to be the next Sheriff of Four Feather Falls," said Ben.

"I wouldn't be too sure of that," said a voice.

"It's Tex!" cried Jake. But Big Ben had already drawn his gun.

"Oh, no you don't, Tex Tucker! Don't forget I've got Jake here with me and you don't want me to hurt him, do you? Now throw down your guns," said Ben.

Tex dropped his guns on the ground—he had no choice for he knew that Big Ben meant what he said. Big Ben got off his horse and bent down to pick up Tex's guns, but just

as he was about to get hold of them, Tex's magic guns jumped up on their own and fired at Big Ben—blasting the gun from his hand and shooting his hat from his head.

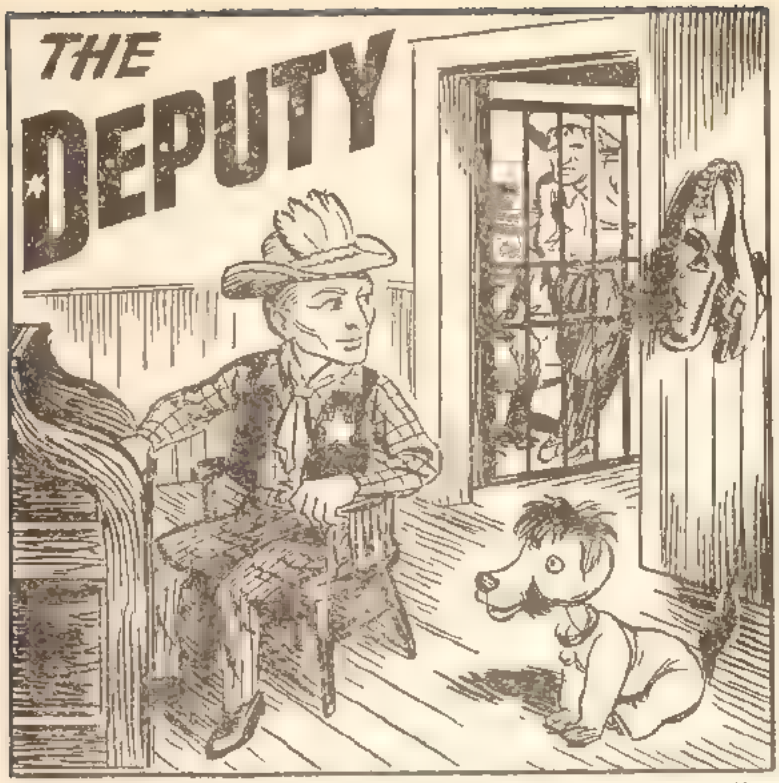
"Ouch!" cried Ben. And he backed away from the guns with fright. He had never seen guns move on their own before. As he moved, so they moved too. Slowly Big Ben raised his hands. "Okay, Tucker, you win," said Ben.

You see, there was one thing that he had forgotten, these were no ordinary guns, they were MAGIC GUNS!

As for Jake, well he promised Tex he would never ride off alone again, at least not until he was grown-up, and perhaps a Sheriff himself.

They rode back into Four Feather Falls, and there was Grandpa Twink still asleep when they arrived. And until this day he doesn't know about Jake's adventure. That's a secret between Tex, Jake, Dusty, Rocky . . . and now . . . US!





1. "Well, Dusty," said Tex, glancing at the cell, "reckon the Deputy will be here soon to escort the Wade Brothers to Silver City for trial."



2. The Deputy *was* on his way, but the Stranger following him had other ideas!



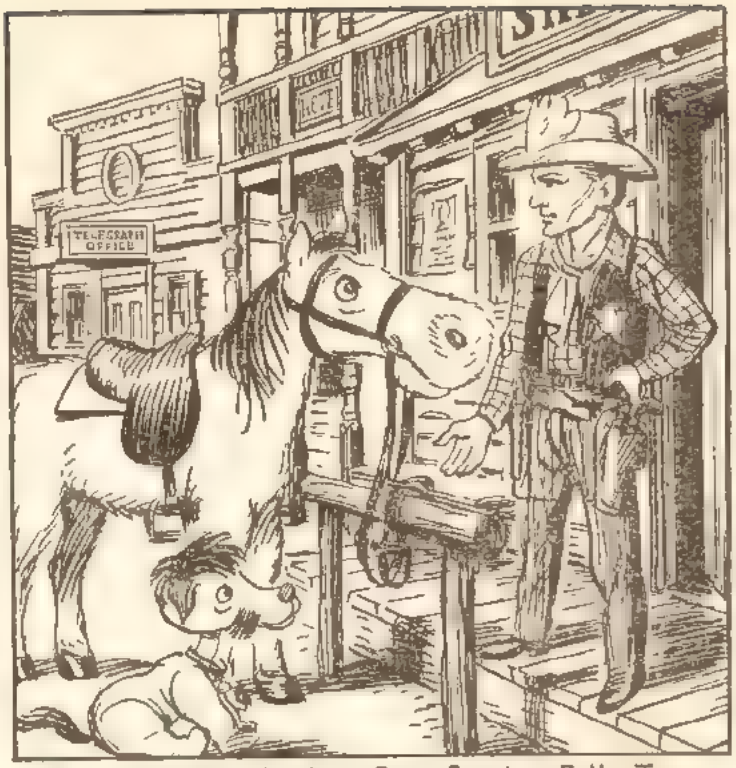
3. "O.K. git off your horse," snarled the Stranger. "I'm the third Wade brother."



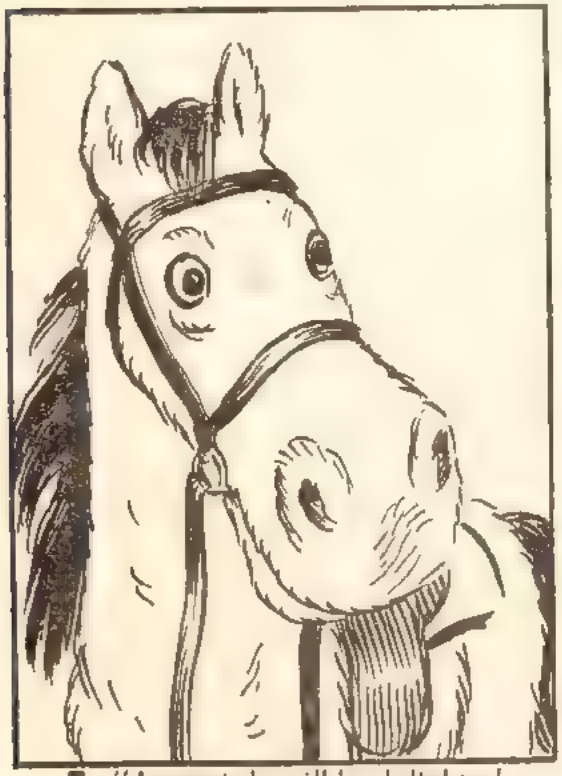
4. "You ain't takin' nobody in for trial," Wade went on, as he tied up his prisoner. He removed the Deputy's badge and put it on his own shirt.



5. "You won't get away w th this, Wade," shouted the Deputy angrily as the outlaw rode away towards town.



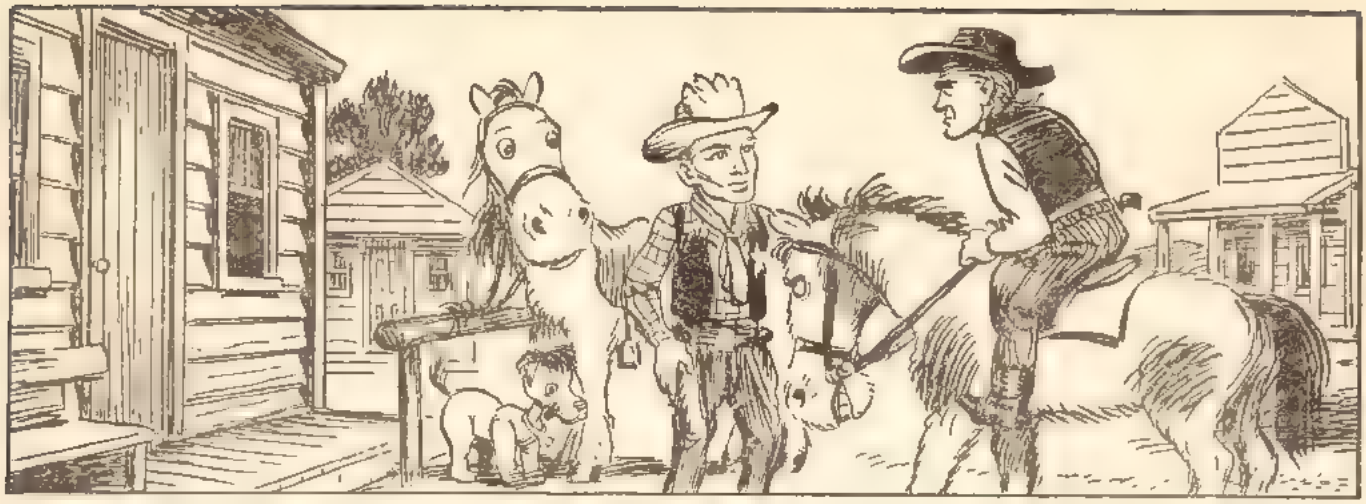
6. Meanwhile, back in Four Feather Falls, Tex was chatt ng with his pals, Rocky and Dusty unaware of the plight of the Deputy.



7. "I certainly will be delighted when these bounders vacate the jail," said Rocky.



8. "For once I'm right with you," said Dusty. "Hey, fe las," said Tex, "looks like the Deputy ridin' in now. Funny, he reminds me of someone."



9. "Howdy!" said the Stranger as he approached Tex's office. "You the Sheriff round here?" "Sure am," replied Tex. "Guess you're the Deputy from Silver City."



10. "That's right," said the Stranger. "Come to take those Wade boys—and the gold they stole—off your hands."



11. "Mighty big assignment you're givin' yourself, Mister," said Tex. "The outlaws *and* the gold! Come in and git 'em."



12. After the Stranger left with the prisoners, Tex wrote a telegram to the Sheriff of Silver City, and asked Dusty to take it to Dan Morse.



13. Out on the prair e, Doc was return ng from his rounds with Jake when they heard a cry.



14. "Did you hear that, Jake?" said Doc. "Sure did," replied Jake, "came from over there."



15. It was the Deputy crying out for help. Quickly they untied him and Doc gave him water. Then he told them his story.



16. When he had finished, Doc said, "Jake, me boy, ride back to town and tell Tex—I'll follow with this poor fellow on my horse."



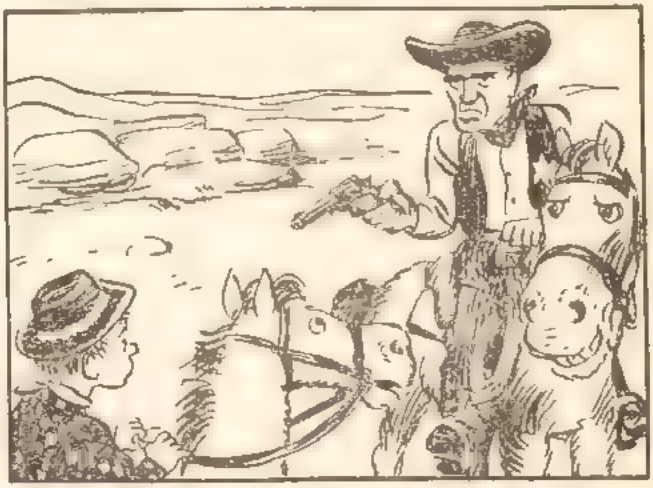
17. Jake rode as hard as he could down the hot and dusty trail back to Four Feather Falls.



18. But suddenly Jake had to stop. Three men on horseback stood blocking his way. "Say son," said one of them, "you're in a mighty big hurry what's the trouble?"



19. "I gotta get to Tex Tucker," said Jake, "to warn him about the phony Deputy. Docand the real Deputyare comin' behind."



20. "You're go.n' no place," snarled the man. "Reckon you spoke outa turn. We're the Wade Brothers!"



21. It wasn't long before the Wade brothers had captured Doc and the Deputy too. While the outlaws ate supper, Jake, Doc and the Deputy lay watching them, helpless. They could see no way of escape.



22. Tex got a reply confirming that the Deputy was a phony. "I *thought* he looked like the Wade boys, so I didn't give him the gold"



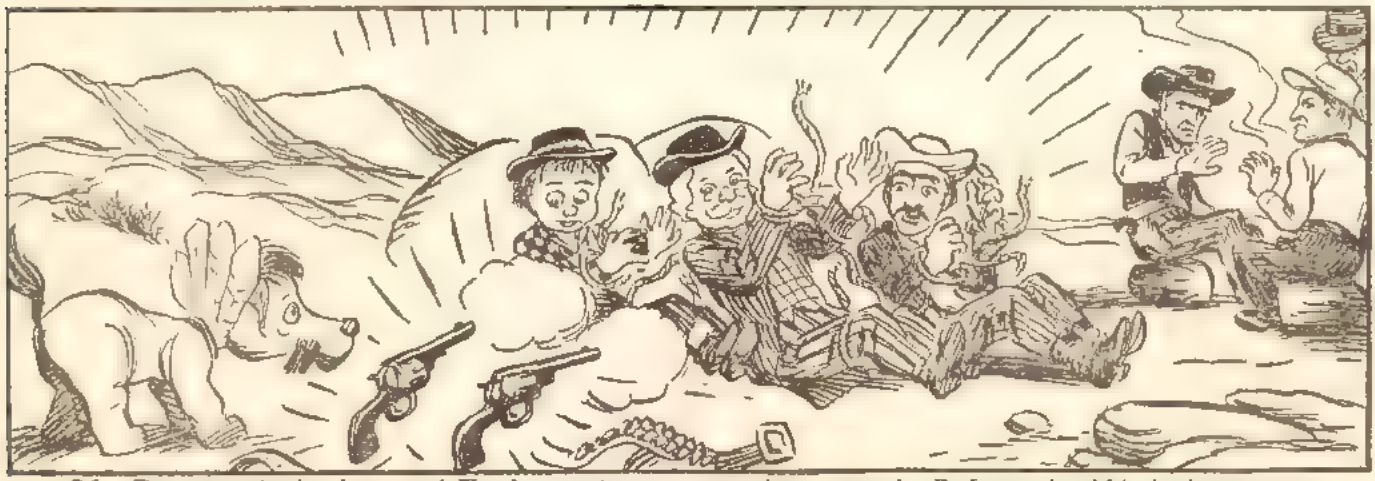
23. "When they discover there's only rocks in that bag, they'll be back. I can't risk leaving town."



24. So Dusty took the magic guns and followed their trail to the Wade brothers' encampment.



25. Suddenly Jake spotted Dusty behind a rock. "Dusty's come to rescue us," he whispered excitedly, "and he's got the magic guns!"



26. Dusty quietly dropped Tex's magic guns on the ground. Before the Wade brothers could move, there was a terrific blast as the two guns fired. The ropes that had bound Jake, Doc and the Deputy together were severed.



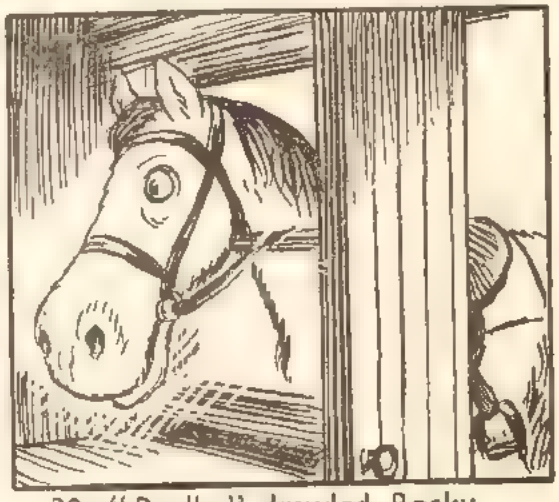
27. And while Dusty bit apart the remaining ropes the magic guns were guarding the Wade gang. The out aws gasped in amazement as the guns followed their every move.



28. Soon Dusty had freed his friends and the Deputy had rounded up the gang. They all made their way back to town, the Wade brothers still terrified of the magic guns.



29. "Well," said Tex to the Deputy, when the gang were safely in jail, "guess you collected one more hombre than you figured!"



30. "Really," drawled Rocky, "two of these cads were enough, but three–it's too much!"

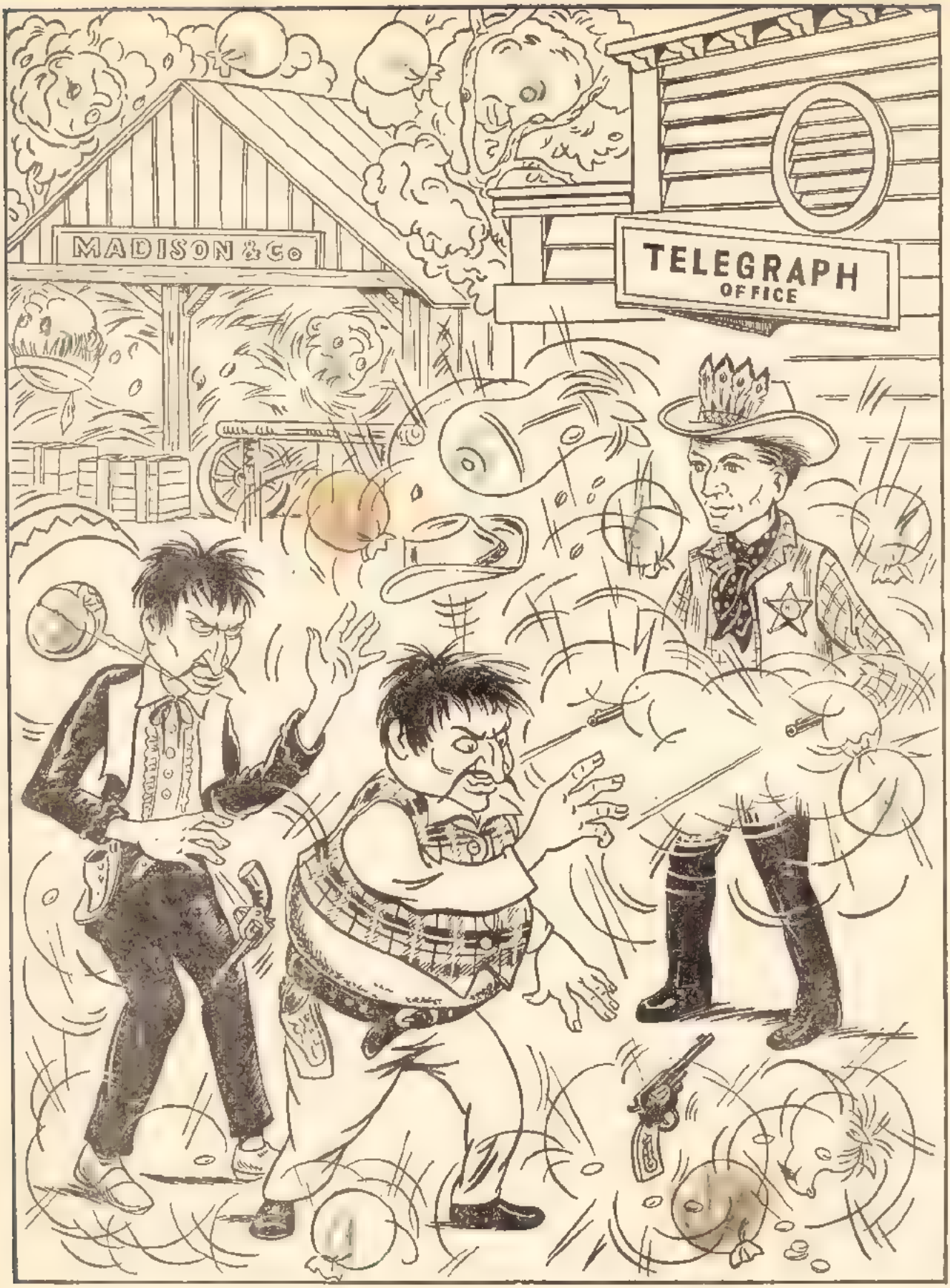
The CRACKED MIRROR

TAKE A COLOURED PENCIL AND FILL IN ALL THE PARTS OF THE MIRROR WHICH HAVE BULLET HOLES IN THEM. YOU WILL BE SURPRISED AT WHAT YOU WILL FIND!



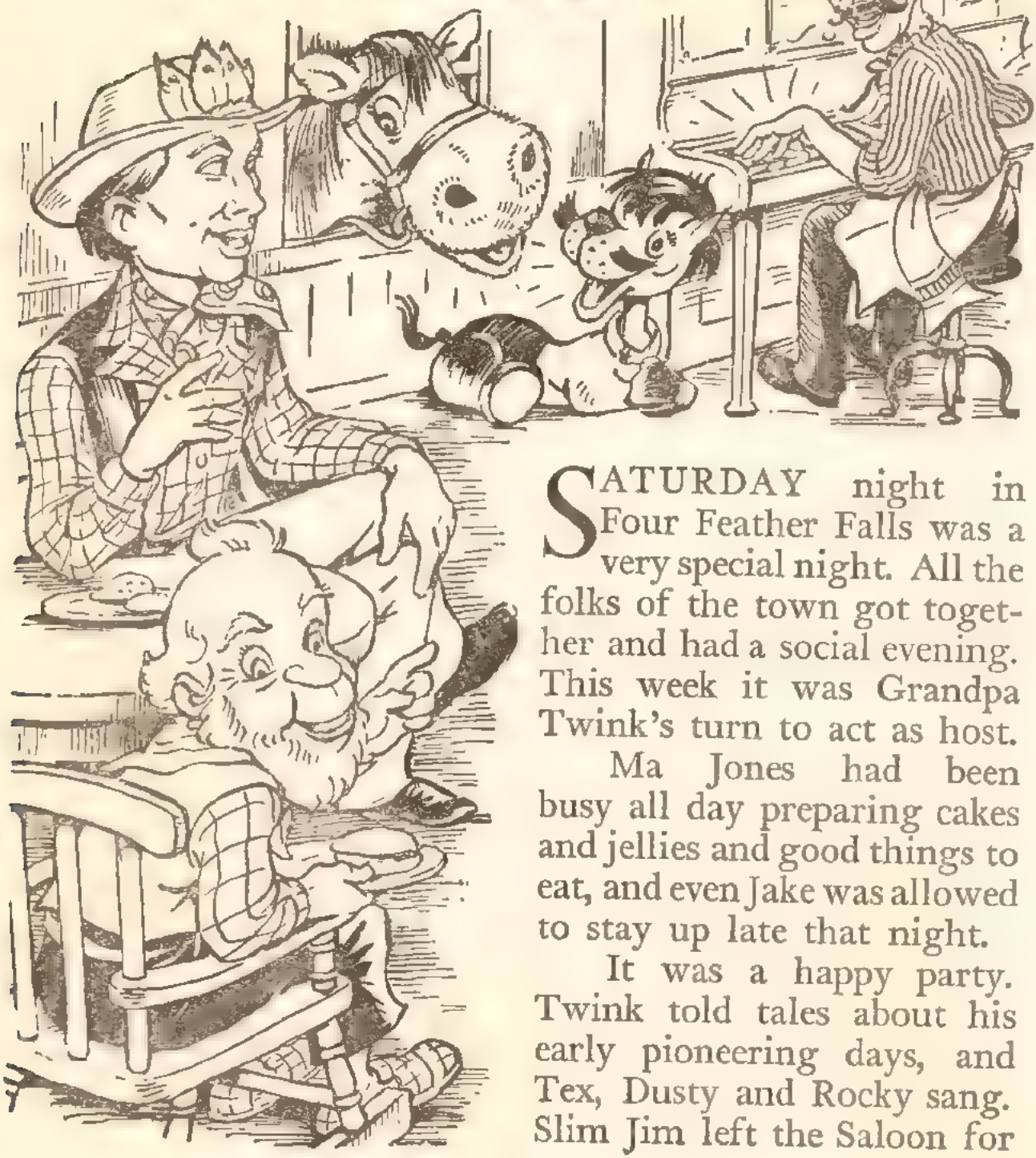
WHICH GUN HAS FIRED THE SHOTS
THAT CRACKED THE MIRROR ?

IT IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHERS !



Hidden in this picture are 9 bags of gold which the bandits stole and also 7 witnesses who saw them. See how quickly you can find them.

The DECOY



SATURDAY night in Four Feather Falls was a very special night. All the folks of the town got together and had a social evening. This week it was Grandpa Twink's turn to act as host.

Ma Jones had been busy all day preparing cakes and jellies and good things to eat, and even Jake was allowed to stay up late that night.

It was a happy party. Twink told tales about his early pioneering days, and Tex, Dusty and Rocky sang. Slim Jim left the Saloon for

a while to join them, and he played a piano solo. This, of course, was a cue for Twink to make rude comments about his playing, but it was all in fun and nobody really minded. It was a typical Four Feather Falls party—happy and friendly!

But just down the street whilst all this was going on there was something happening that was not at all happy or friendly. Ma Jones's Store was being robbed!

"Now calm down, Ma," said Tex kindly when he heard the news. "Let's make a list of all that's missing."

"Oh dear now—let me see," flustered Ma Jones. "It's kinda difficult to tell right off. Yes! Why, of course," she exclaimed suddenly, "I had a whole lot of new stuff in yesterday, and it's all gone! I can tell you exactly what's missing. I've got the list right here."

"There now," said Ma Jones producing the list. "Enchillados; Chilli Con Carne; Tomales; Wine . . ."

"O.K., Ma, that's enough," interrupted Tex. "Reckon I know



"Now calm down, Ma," said Tex.

who stole your stuff all right—our old friends Pedro and Fernando! "

Tex rode out to Pedro's shack, confident that he would find the missing stores.

" All right, Pedro," said Tex as he entered the shack, " hand over the stuff you stole last night."

Pedro and Fernando looked up in surprise. " But Sheriff," protested Pedro, " we ain't got no stuff."

" You don't expect me to believe that, do you? " said Tex. " I'm gonna search the place."

Tex searched high and low, but there was no sign of the stolen food.

" Well, old bean, what do you make of it? " said Rocky as they rode back to Four Feather Falls.



" I'm gonna search the place," said Tex.



"Oh!" cried Fernando in delight.

"I don't rightly know, Rocky," replied Tex. "My guess is that they've hidden it some place, but until I find it there's nuthin' I can do."

But when they got back to the office, there was a note pinned to the door. "This sure is mighty interestin'," said Tex after he read the note. "Guess we'll be seein' Pedro and Fernando sooner than we thought, Rocky."

Meanwhile, Pedro and Fernando had their second visitor that day, Big Ben the Bandit.

"Now, Pedro," said Big Ben smoothly, "how would you like some wonderful Mexican food?" "Food!" said Fernando, rousing himself. "Did someone say food?" "Shut up, Fernando!" snapped Pedro, and then turning to Big Ben he said: "Sure we'd like some food, Ben, but how much you charge, uh?" "Well, now, let me see," said Ben slowly. "There's Enchillados, Tomales, Chilli Con Carne and Wine . . ." "Oh!" cried Fernando in delight, "don't go on, I can't stand it."

"Reckon I could let you have the lot for ten dollars,"

said Ben. "Ten dollars!" exclaimed Pedro. "But amigo, we ain't got ten cents!" "Well, then, Pedro, as an old pal, I guess I'll let you have the food for nuthin'." "For nuthin'!" echoed Pedro and Fernando. "Yep, that's right," said Ben, "just take the food and have a real nice meal. Stay right here and don't go away." "Sure, sure," said Pedro and Fernando eagerly. "We won't move."

"Ha! ha! ha!" laughed Ben as he rode away. "So my little plan worked. It was too easy. Since when did Big Ben give something away for nothing?"

Pedro and Fernando were just settling down to eat when Tex arrived once again.

"Well, I guess I've caught you red-handed this time," said Tex as he looked at all the food piled up on the table. "O.K., pack it all up and come back to Four Feather Falls with me, pronto!"

"But Sheriff!" protested Pedro. "I said get movin'!" commanded Tex sternly. "You can do all your explainin' in jail!"

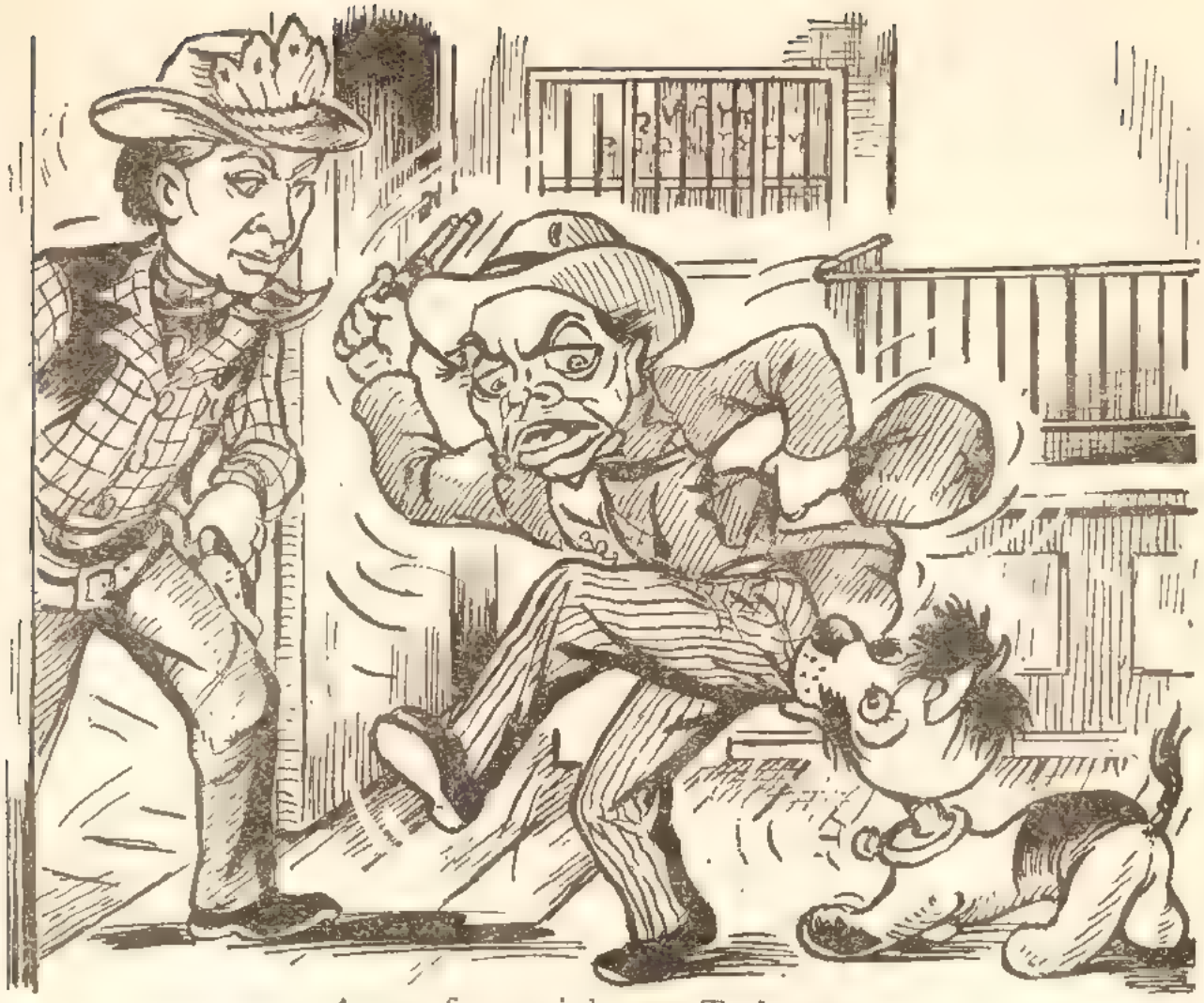
"Oh!" moaned Fernando. "All that beautiful food and I haven't had a bite. Never 'ave I bin so-o-o un'appy!"

As the three rode into Town, with Pedro and Fernando's horses laden with the food, they heard cries coming from the end of the street by the Bank.

"Say, Twink," called Tex, throwing him a gun. "Take care of these two while I find out what's going on down there." "Sure thing," replied Twink, who was only too happy to have the task of guarding the two bandits.

"And see that all that stuff is returned to Ma Jones," called back Tex as he rode down the street.

When Tex arrived at the Bank a very funny sight met



A very funny sight met Tex's eyes.

his eyes. There was Dusty with his sharp little teeth very firmly embedded in the seat of Big Ben's trousers, while Big Ben was crying out in anger and waving his arms about, trying to wriggle out of Dusty's grasp. In one hand he held a gun, and in the other was a bag of gold. But as Tex approached, Dusty tugged even harder at Ben, and without being able to help himself, Ben dropped the gun and the gold as he finally jerked out of Dusty's hold.

"Thanks, Dusty old feller," said Tex, pointing his gun at Ben. "It's O.K. I'll take over now. Thought

you were pretty smart, eh, Ben? " said Tex. " First you robbed Ma Jones's Store and planted the stuff with Pedro and Fernando, and then you leave an anonymous note to get me out of the way while you rob the Bank. Too bad I left little Dusty to keep watch. I figured that note was a decoy. Writers of anonymous notes usually stand to gain something themselves. In your case you hoped it would be gold, but it's Four Feather Falls jail, Ben, instead! "





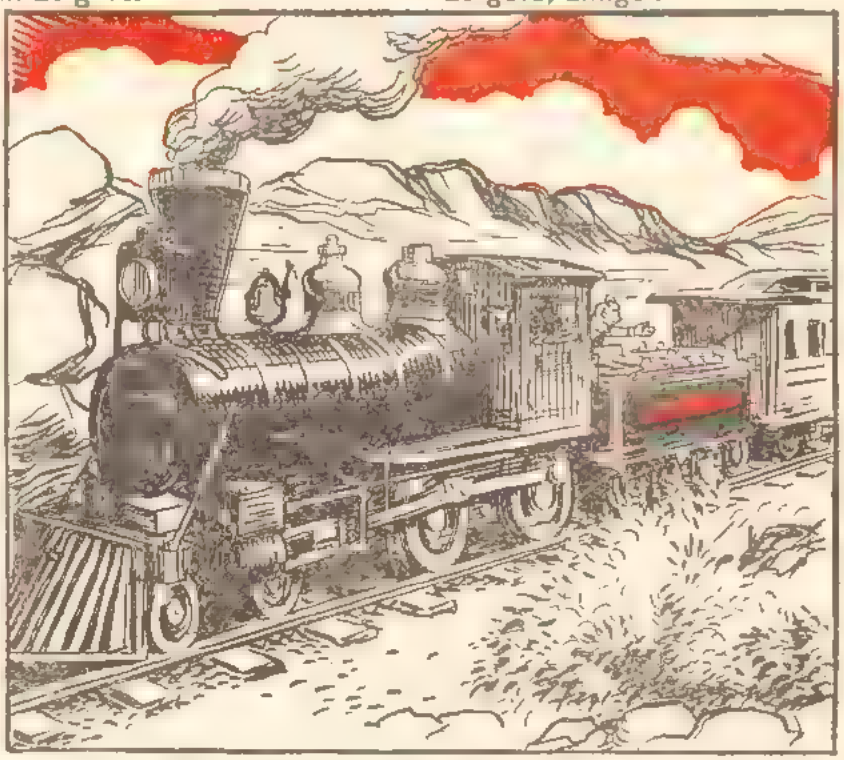
1. "Now leesten, Fernando," said Pedro one day, as the bandits were plotting in their shack, "ze train will be comin' down wiz all ze gold."



2. "Gold!" sa d Fernando, "I theenk I'm gonna like thees! Now we can eat again. But how we get ze gold, amigo?"



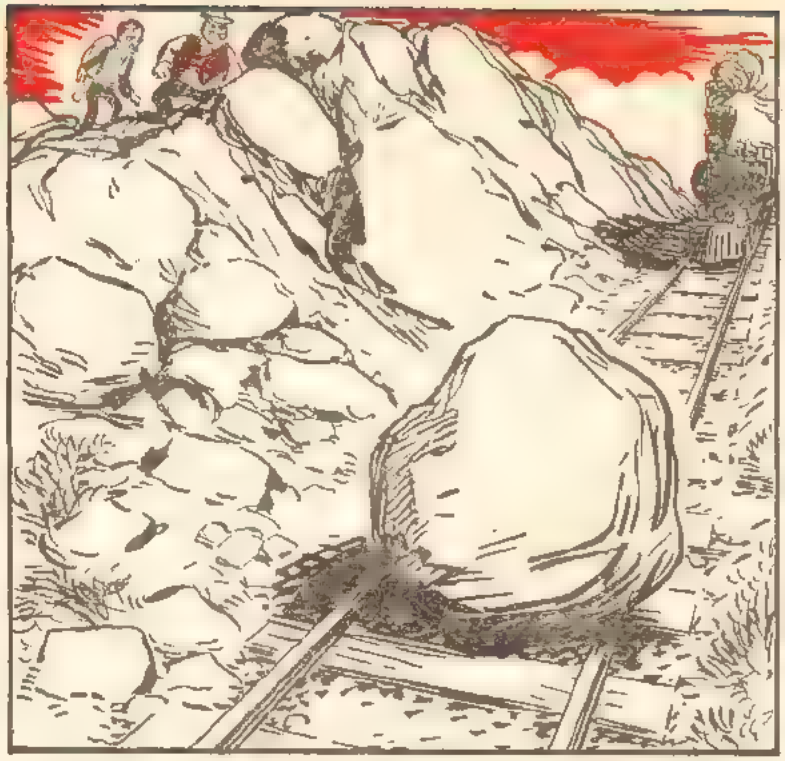
3. "Leesten! leesten! Now, thees ees my beeg plan," said Pedro cunningly. "Thees ees what we 'ave to do. . . ."



4. The next day, along came the Rackety Train which *was* carrying the gold as Pedro had said. Slowly it chugged down the track, towards Four Feather Falls.



5. Up the line Fernando was struggling with a huge boulder. Pedro was shouting directions.



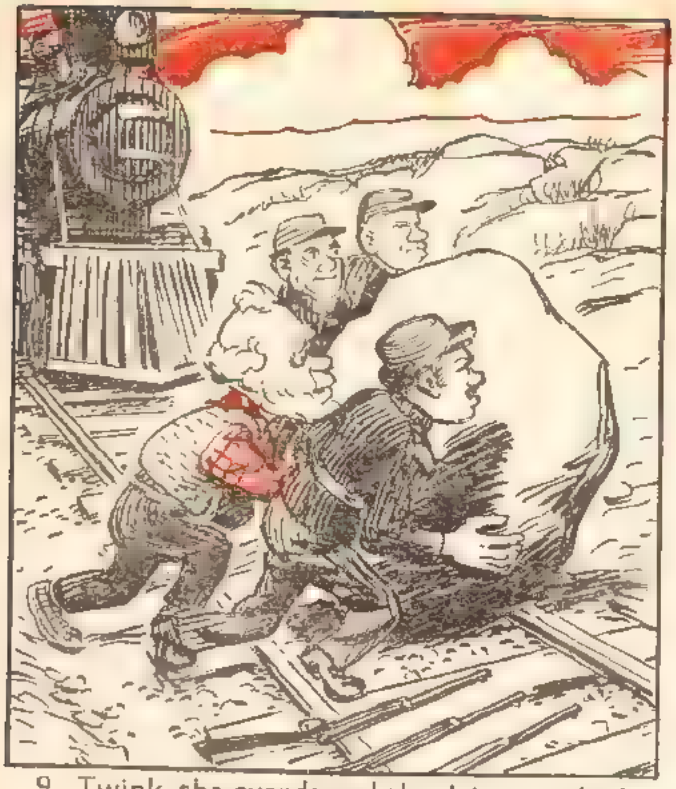
6. Fernando pushed and pushed until, finally, the boulder rolled down, crashing on the track below. "Olé, Fernando!" shouted Pedro.



7. The train slowed down when the driver saw the boulder. Twink, who was guarding the gold, leaned out and raised his rifle.



8. "Don't seem like a trap," said Twink, getting out. "Guess it's just an accident —better clear the line."



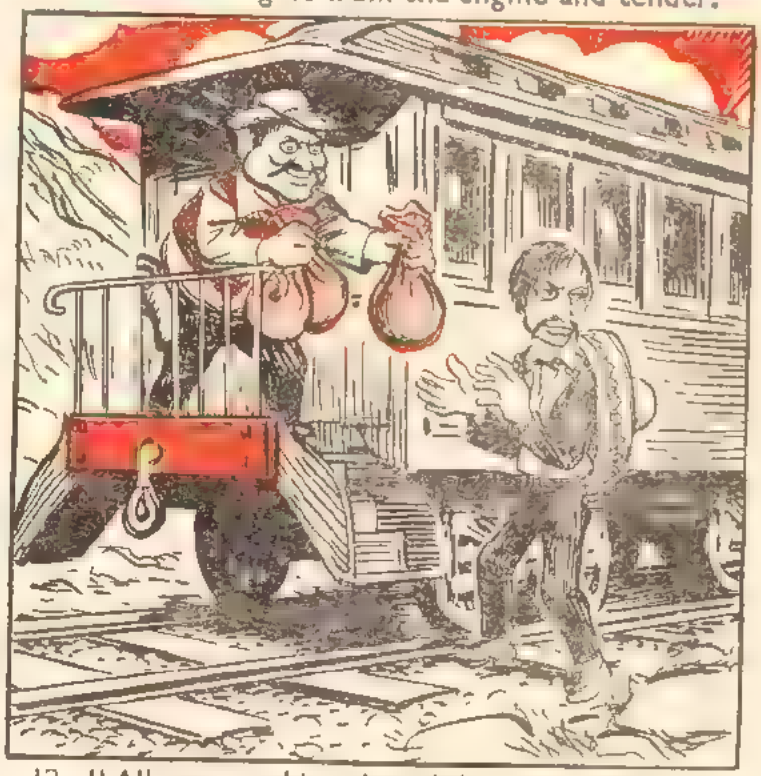
9. Twink, the guards and the driver pushed the boulder off the track. It was very heavy but at last it moved.



10. But meantime Pedro and Fernando were busy too—uncoupling the carriage with the gold from the engine and tender.



11. Pedro laughed as they watched the engine move off, leav ng behind the carriage with the gold.



12. "All zees gold, what did I tell you, uh? We're gonna be reech," said Pedro, as he handed Fernando the first bag of gold..



13. But before Fernando could get hold of the gold, the carriage started to roll down the hill.



14. "Fernando! Imbecile! Do something!" yelled Pedro: But Fernando only stood there and cried, "Never 'ave I been so un'appy!"

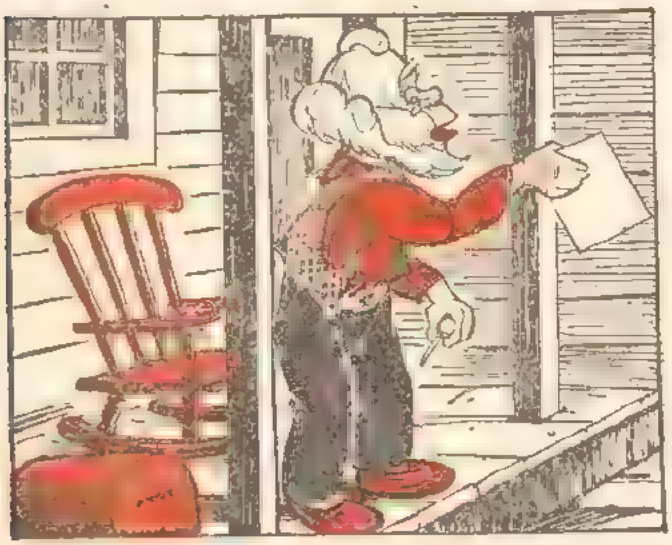


15. By jumping in the carriage Pedro had made it move. And he didn't know that it was making for Four Feather Falls!



16. "Well, Grandpa, there's your gold," said Tex. "Thanks for bringing it, Pedro, sure saved me a heap of trouble."





1. "Say, Tex," said Grandpa Twink, holding a note in his hand. "What do yah think of this? Found it in my mail-box."



2. "Am away on urgent business," read Tex. "Am sending trusted friend to look after Bank. Signed, Marvin Jackson."



3. "Well, seems O.K. to me, Twink," said Tex. "Guess Marvin was in a hurry and didn't have time to see us before he left."



4. "I jest don't like it, Tex," frowned Twink. "Ain't like Marvin to go off without a word like that."



5. "Now, Grandpa, there ain't no law that says a man can't take off for a few days, is there?"



6. "Now don't you go worryin', Grandpa," said Tex. "See you when I get back from Jamestown." "So long, Tex," replied Grandpa Twink.



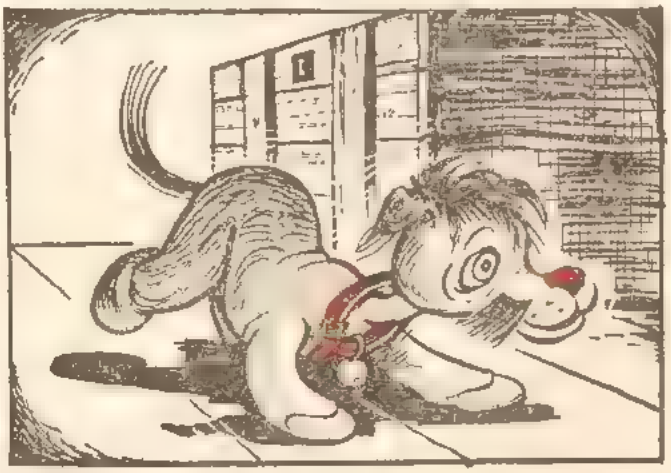
7. Later that day, Twink, Jake and Dusty visited the Bank but there seemed to be no more news of Marvin.



8. There was a stranger in Marvin's place. "There you are, sir," he said to Twink. "Now if you'll excuse me, I have work to do."



9. "Ain't very friendly, Gramps, is he?" said Jake. "No, son," said Twink, "somethin' strange's goin' on all right."



10. Meanwhile, Dusty had hidden in the Bank, and was listening to a conversation between the Stranger and another man.



11. Recognising the voice, Dusty peeped out from behind the box. "Big Ben!" he thought. "I bet Mr. Jackson's in danger!"



12. "Take as much gold as you can out to your shack," said the Stranger, "and come back at nightfall for the rest."



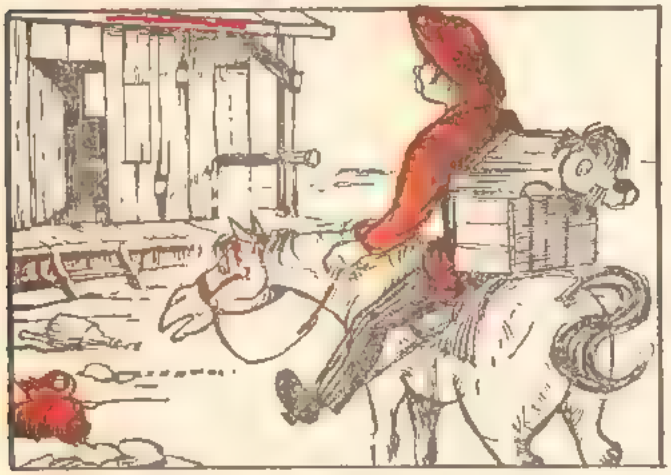
13. "What about the box?" said Big Ben, pointing to the very box where Dusty was hiding. Dusty drew back in alarm.



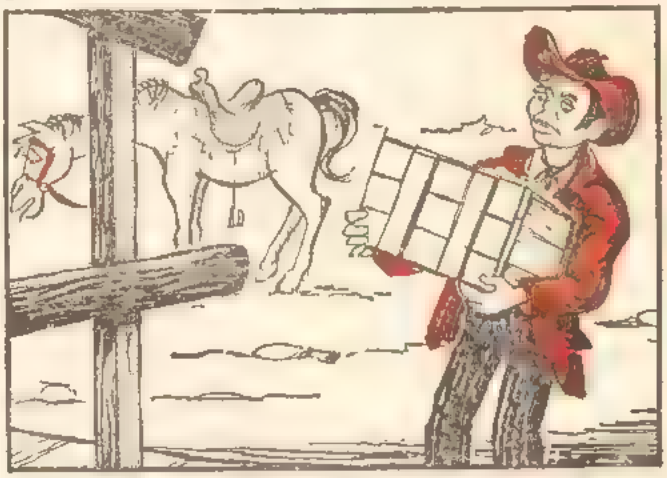
14. "Better take that too," said the Stranger, and as they turned away, Dusty quick y jumped into the box.



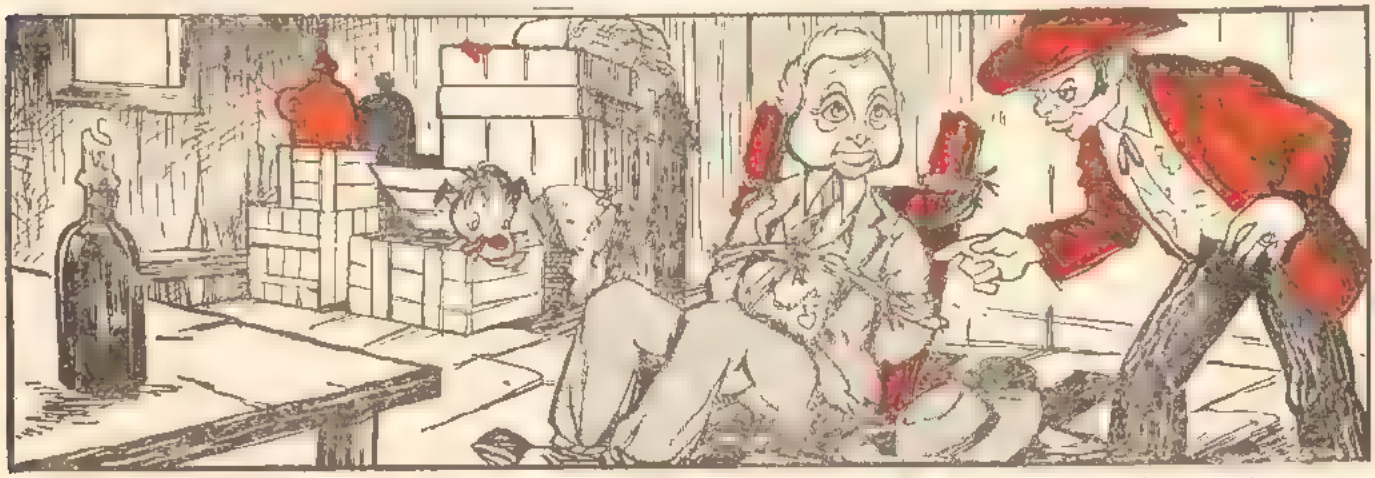
15. Soon Dusty felt himself being hoisted up and tied to a horse. He peeped out and saw that he was on Ben's horse and they seemed to be making their way to Ben's shack. He tried to keep very still, but now and again he stuck his head out for air.



16. After a long ride, the horse slowed down, and Dusty held his breath anxiously. Would he be discovered now?



17. Dusty felt himself being roughly lifted off the horse. He was very frightened and his heart was beating quickly.



18. When the box was at last put down, Dusty lifted the lid of the box and peered out. He was in Ben's shack all right—and there in the corner of the room he saw the Bank Manager, Marvin Jackson, gagged and bound! Ben was walking over to him.



19. Ben tightened the ropes around his prisoner. "That'll fix you for a little while, Mr. Marvin Jackson," he sneered.



20. After what seemed like a long time, Ben went out. Dusty jumped up and started to chew at Mr. Jackson's ropes.



21. Soon Dusty had freed Marvin. They found his horse and together they rode back to Four Feather Falls.



22. At nightfall they arrived at Tex's office. "Am I glad to see you, Marvin!" cried Twink "What happened?" asked Tex.



23. "Well, it's all thanks to Dusty," said Marvin. "He saved my life. But let's get over to the Bank."



24. They all hurried over to the Bank and hid in the shadows. Soon, Ben and his partner came out, carrying the gold.



25. "Okay," rapped out Tex, "raise your hands and drop that gold!" "Tex Tucker!" exclaimed Ben in amazement.



26. But without warning Ben hurled the bag of gold in his hand at Tex, knocking Tex's gun to the ground.



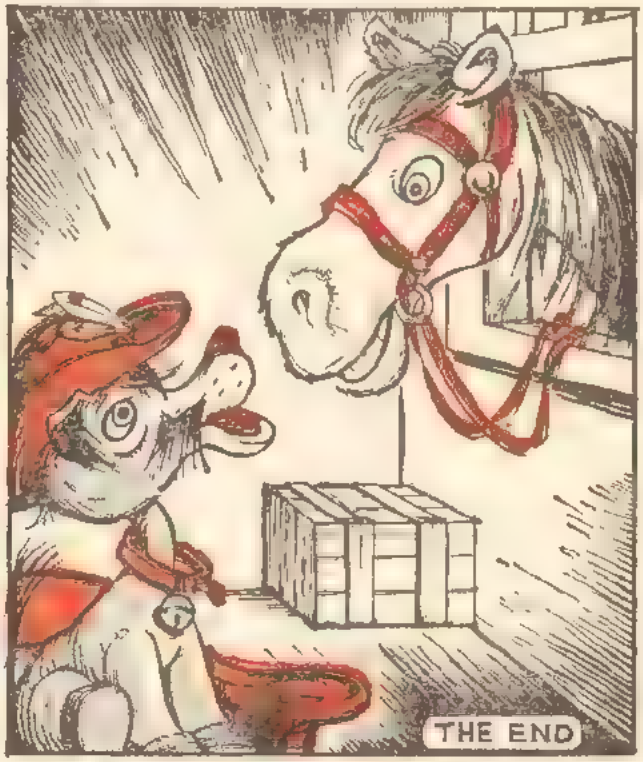
27. "Now who's smart?" sneered Ben. But at that moment Tex's gun in the holster swivelled and shot Ben's gun from his hand.



28. At the same time Tex's other magic gun on the ground raised itself up and shot the gun out of the other bandit's hand.

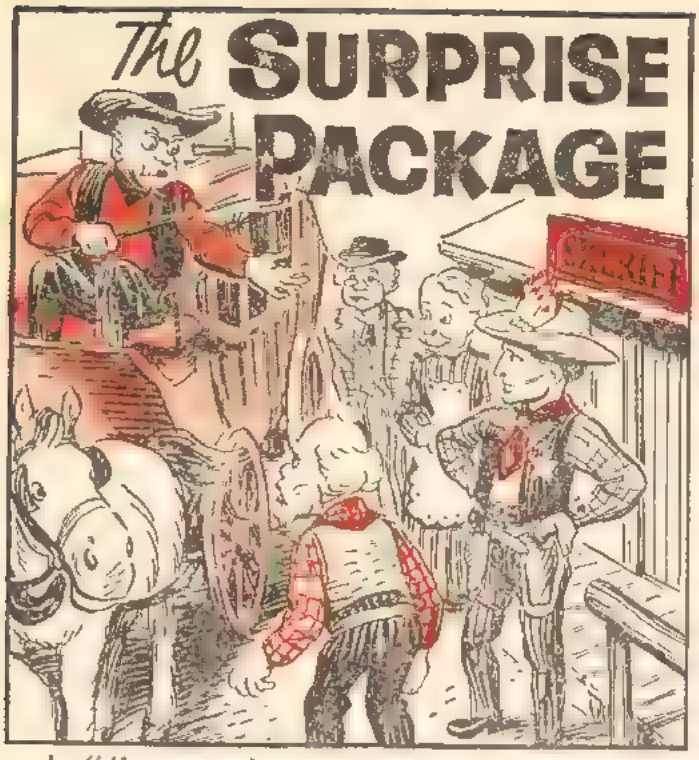


29. Ben and his partner were put in jail, of course. As for Dusty, well, he enjoyed all the praise that was being given to him.



30. Even Rocky treated Dusty with respect. "Well, old bean," he said, "every dog has his day, you know!"

The SURPRISE PACKAGE



1. "I'm gettin' mighty tired of these hold-ups, Mr. Sheriff," said the Stagecoach driver. "That's the third this month."



2. "My bank soon won't have any money in it at all," added Marvin Jackson. "I know, Marvin, but I got a plan," said Tex.



3. "You sure this scheme of yours is gonna work, Tex?" said Marvin, later that day. "We'll soon know," said Tex



4. Next day just before the Stage left on its return journey to Silver City, Marvin ran out carrying a box marked GOLD.



5. "Hey, driver, take good care of this box, it's mighty important," said Marvin loudly, as he handed it to the driver.



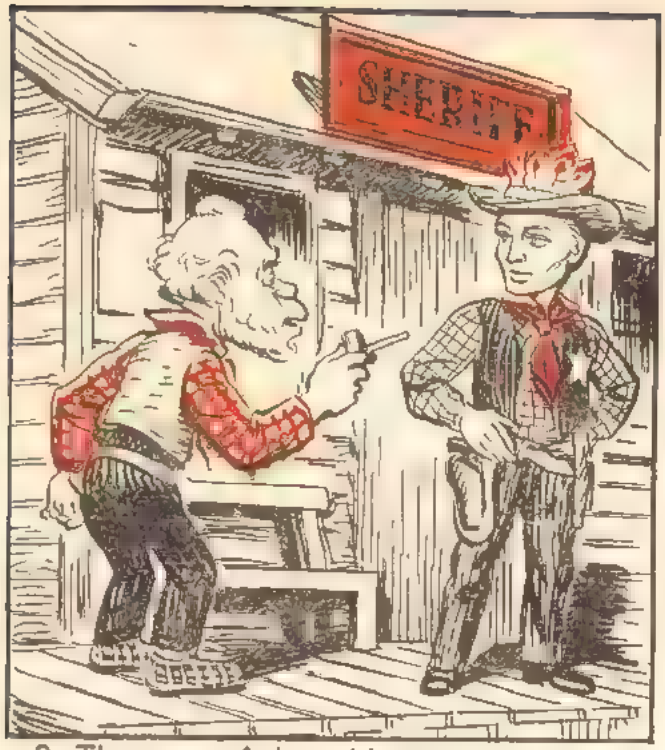
6. Pedro and Fernando, who were hiding nearby, heard what Marvin had said, and their eyes glinted greedily.



7. "We gotta get that-a box, Fernando," whispered Pedro. "Come on, we beat him along ze trail."



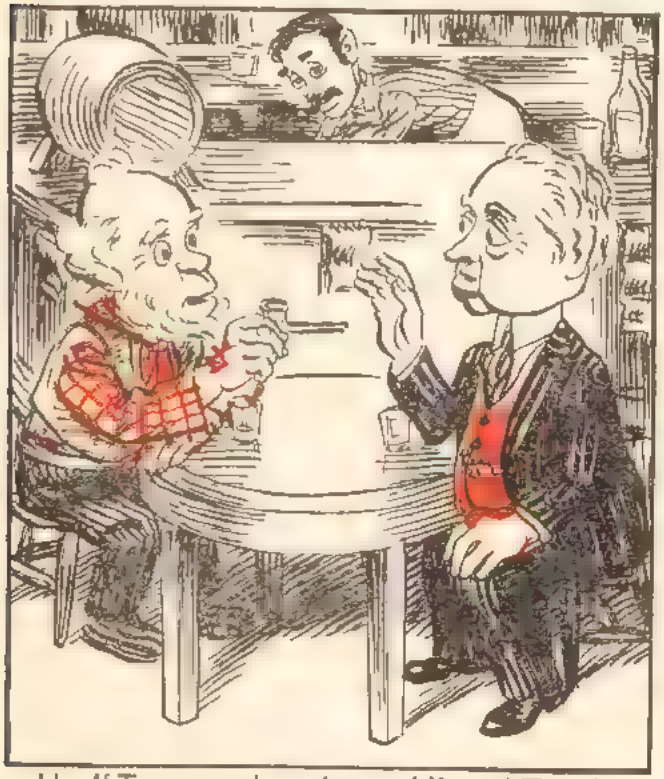
8. Pedro and Fernando did beat the Stage along the trail; then, disguised, they held up the Stagecoach and stole the box of gold.



9. The news of the robbery soon reached Four Feather Falls. Tex seemed unconcerned when Twink told him the news.



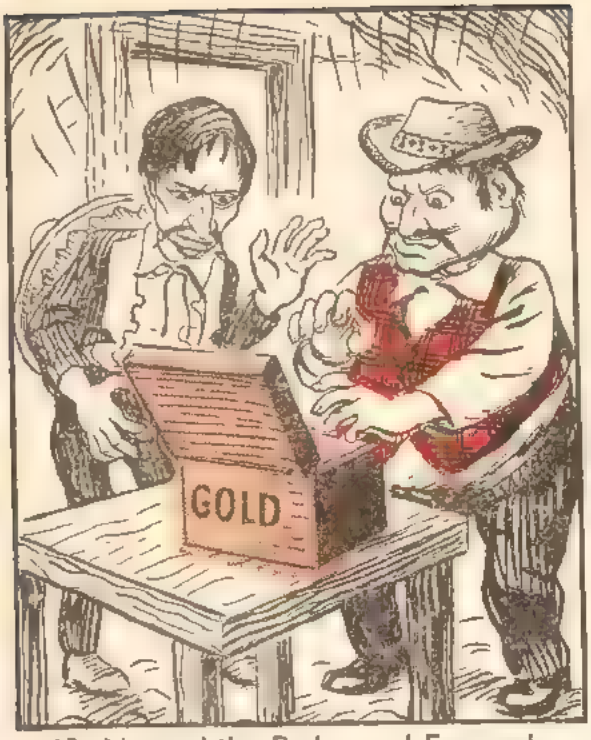
10. "But what you gonna do about it, Tex?" asked Twink. "Nuthin'," said Tex. "Those bandits'll be in jail by nightfall."



11. "Tex sure has changed," said Twink. "He should be right out after 'em." "Tex knows what he's a-doin'," said Marvin.



12. But everyone was puzzled. Even Rocky and Dusty wondered why Tex was doing nothing about catching the bandits.



13. Meanwhile, Pedro and Fernando were opening the box. Slowly their eager expressions changed to fear.



14. That night Tex rode out of town and visited all the bandits who might have robbed the Stage. Pedro's shack was his last call.

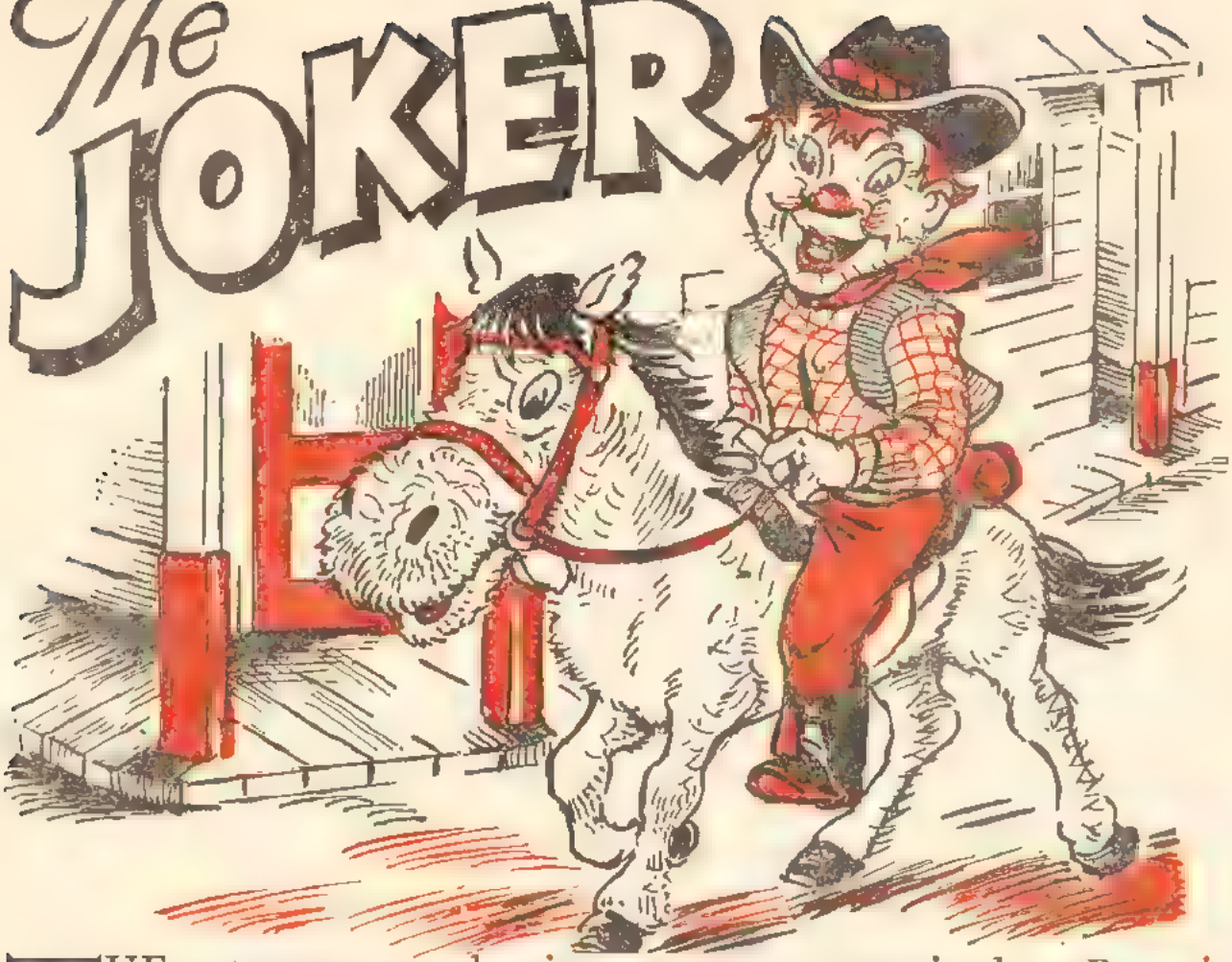


15. There he found Pedro and Fernando trembling with fear as the magic guns which were inside the box, covered them.



16. "Well, how do you like my surprise package?" said Tex. "Guess these guns are more precious to me than gold!"

The JOKER



THE stranger rode into town unnoticed. But it certainly didn't take long for him to become known to the people of Four Feather Falls.

"Howdy, stranger!" said Slim Jim, greeting him as he entered the Saloon.

"Why, howdy there!" replied the man with a southern drawl. "Let me introduce myself, sir, I'm Happy Horace from New Orleans."

"Mighty glad to know you, Happy," said Jim. "Can I get you a drink?"

"You surely can, and one for yourself, too," said Happy Horace. "Why, thank you, Happy," replied Jim.



Slim Jim spluttered.

Jim poured out the two drinks and as he turned away to replace the bottle on the shelf, Happy Horace did a very strange thing. He quickly slipped two tablets in Jim's glass without saying a word.

"Well, here's to your stay in Four Feather Falls, Happy," toasted Jim, raising the glass to drink. He took one sip from the glass and then suddenly made the most peculiar spluttering noises, and started to go very red in the face.

"Ha! ha! ha! ha!" laughed Horace, rolling about in amusement. But Slim Jim was very angry and said: "I don't think it's very funny, Mister."

"Aw c'mon now," said Happy Horace smoothly. "It was just one of ma little ole jokes. Those tablets are quite harmless—just don't taste so good that's all. Happy Horace is known by all his friends as a joker."



"Ha! Ha!" laughed Horace.



Horace left the Saloon and his next victim. . . .

'Wonder you got any friends left if that's the way you go on," retorted Jim.

Happy Horace left the Saloon and his next victim was Grandpa Twink, who was sitting outside Ma Jones's Store, smoking his pipe and dreaming of days gone by.

"Why, howdy, Grandpa!" called the stranger. "My name's Happy Horace and I'm just staying over in your little ole town for a few days—can I join you for a spell?"

"Sure thing," replied Twink, only too glad for some company.

"Nice friendly sort of feller," thought Twink as the man sat down beside him. They chatted for a while about Four Feather Falls and then Horace produced a very ornate-looking pipe. Twink regarded it with interest.



. . . was Grandpa Twink.

"Sure is a nice-looking pipe you got there, Happy," remarked Twink. "Well, I notice you're a pipe smoker, too, Grandpa," replied Horace. "Tell you what, this is a brand-new pipe—I'll give it to you."

Twink was overjoyed and carefully filled the pipe with "baccy" and then he lit it. He puffed away contentedly for a moment and then his expression changed as the smell and taste of burning rubber became more strong. He looked down and saw his beautiful new pipe drooping and losing shape with the heat. And then he realised that it was a rubber pipe that Happy had given him!

Poor Grandpa, he was so unhappy when he realised that it was all a joke.

"No offence, Grandpa!" laughed Horace, as usual very amused by his practical joke.

Grandpa stalked off in the huff, leaving Horace still laughing.

And so Horace went on playing tricks on the unsuspecting folk of Four Feather Falls. Like the time when he went into Ma Jones's store.

"Why, that's a mighty pretty flower you're wearing," remarked Ma Jones to Horace as he walked up to the counter.

"Where ah come from, Ma'am, all the gentlemen wear flowers in their buttonholes," said Horace grandly. "This is rather a special flower, though—never loses its fragrance. Just you smell that wonderful scent, Ma'am."

Ma Jones bent over to smell the flower but just as she got close to it, a spray of water spurted in her face and ran down on to her pretty blue dress.

"My best dress!" exclaimed Ma Jones tearfully. "Now you've ruined my best dress."

But as usual, Horace could not speak for laughter.



A spray of water spurted in her face.

When Tex heard about the practical jokes, he was very angry. There was a limit to what was funny and what was downright unkind.

"I think Happy Horace needs to be taught a lesson," said Tex.

That evening a whole crowd had gathered in the Saloon and watched with interest as Happy Horace walked up to Tex who was standing by the counter.

"I hear tell you want to see me, sir," said Horace to Tex.



Tex was very angry.

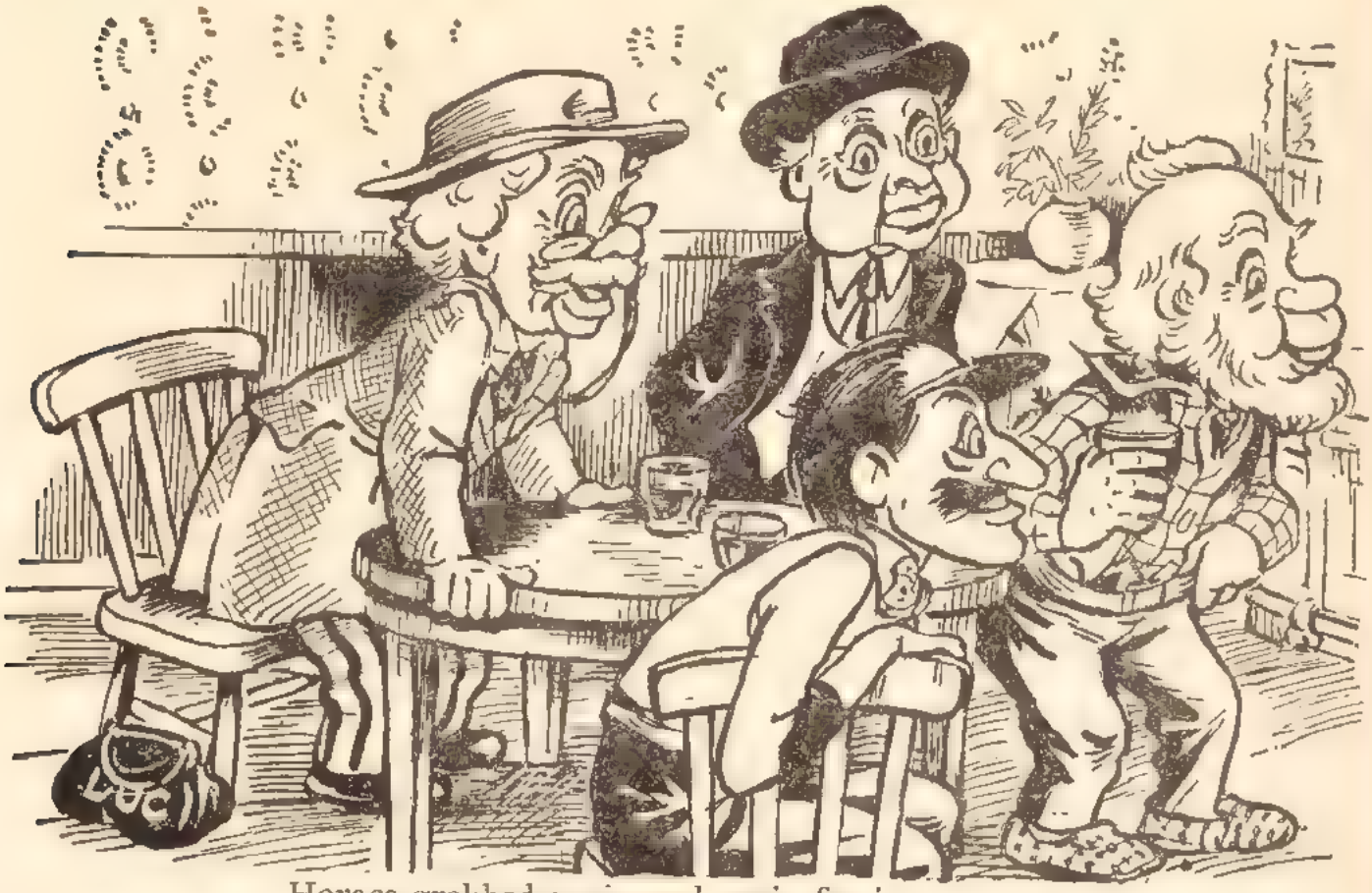
"That's right, Horace," replied Tex. "Just wanna have a little contest with you to see who's quickest on the draw—it's an old custom in Four Feather Falls when there's a stranger in town!"

"But I ain't no gunman, Sheriff," said Horace nervously. "Besides, I've heard about your magic guns."

"Well, Horace," said Tex, "just to show I play fair, I'll let you have one of my magic guns and I'll have yours. Now, how's that?"

"Well, O.K., then," said Horace reluctantly.

Tex then placed his magic gun on the counter by the side of Horace, and placed Horace's gun by his side.



Horace grabbed again and again for it . . .

" Are you ready, Horace? " asked Tex grimly. " Well, ah think so," replied Horace in a very weak voice.

" You can give the signal, Twink," said Tex. There was a long pause and then Twink shouted: " Shoot! "

Tex immediately grabbed his gun from the counter, but Horace was in a terrible state. As he reached for the magic gun it just slid away from him down the counter, and as he grabbed again and again for it, it just danced out of his reach.

"O.K., Horace," said Tex grimly. " I'll count to three and then I'll shoot." "No, no, Sheriff, don't shoot!" cried Horace, looking round for help among the crowd in the Saloon, but no one was ready to help him. They all had



. . . but it just danced out of his reach.

been the victims of his jokes during the past few days.

"One," counted Tex slowly. "Two . . ." "No!" yelled Horace panic-stricken. "Three!" said Tex.

Horace covered his eyes in terror, but instead of a shot there was an outburst of laughter from everyone in the Saloon. He opened his eyes and stared in amazement. "What's so funny?" he demanded.

"Just a little old joke," replied Tex. "Thought it was our turn to play a joke on you!"

"You see, folks," went on Tex turning to the crowd, "a practical joker seldom likes the joke to be on him."

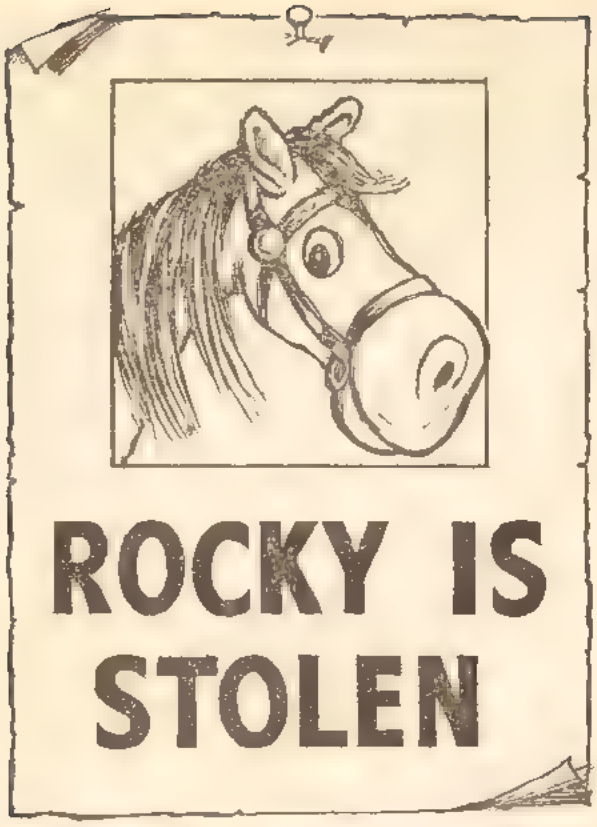
"Maybe this'll cure him for a while," said Tex as Happy Horace, not so happy now, slunk through the door.



Here are two pages for you to paint.



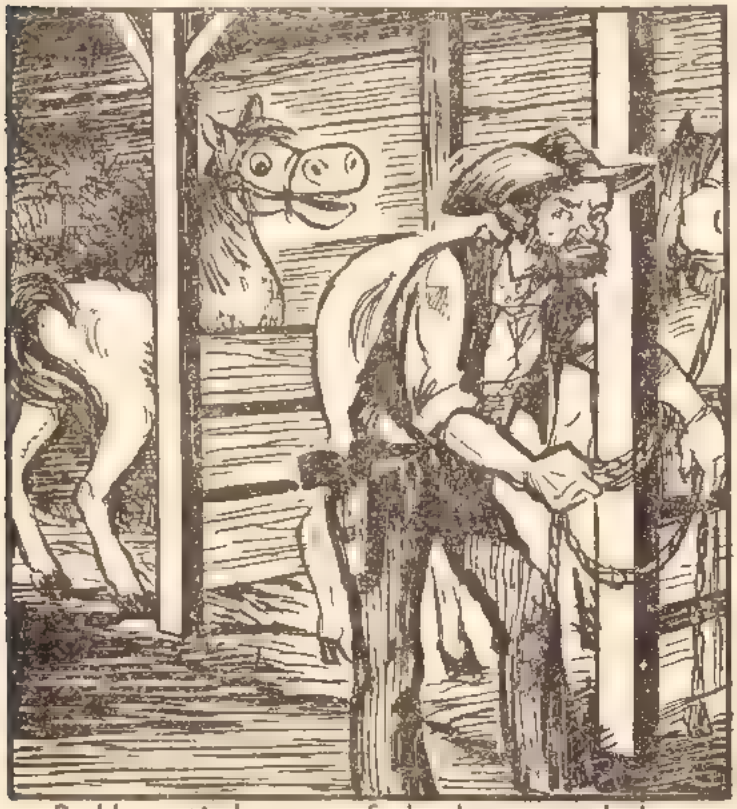
Use your brightest colours to make the pages really gay.



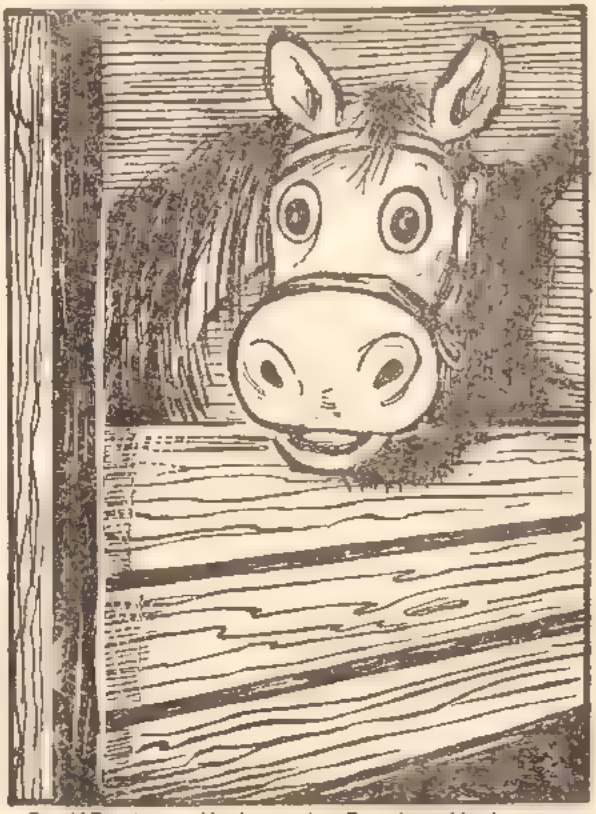
ROCKY IS STOLEN



1. One night as Rocky and all the other horses were asleep in Four Feather Falls, a man crept stealthily into the stable.



2. He untied some of the horses and then quickly looked around as he heard a loud neigh. It was Rocky just waking up.



3 "By jove," thought Rocky, "a horse thief! What a bounder!" The thief saw Rocky and liked the look of him.



4. "You're the best horse of the bunch," said the man as he jumped on Rocky's back. "You'll do just fine."



5. "Now come on, git up there," said the man roughly to Rocky. "I ain't aimin' to git caught on account of you."



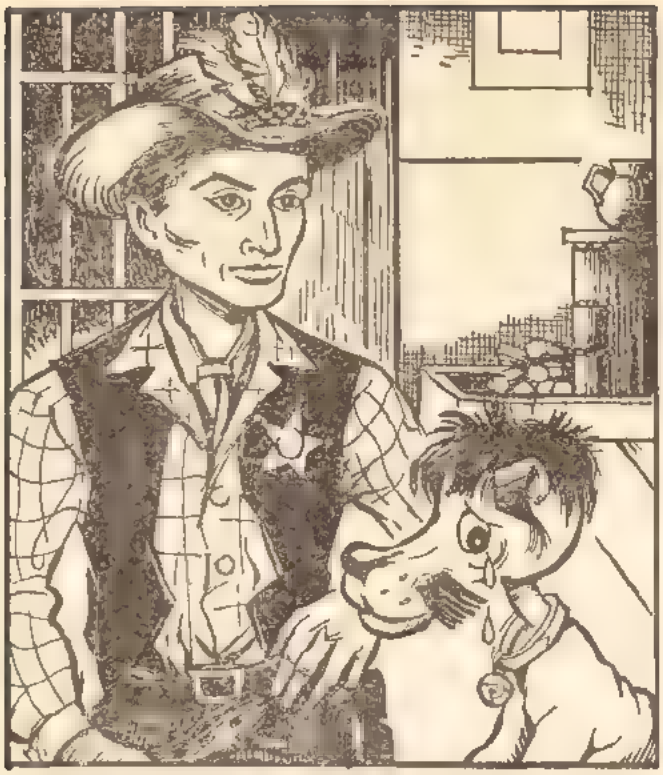
6. Poor Rocky was very unhappy, and he looked behind him sadly as they rode down the main street of Four Feather Falls, and out on to the prairie. On and on they rode.



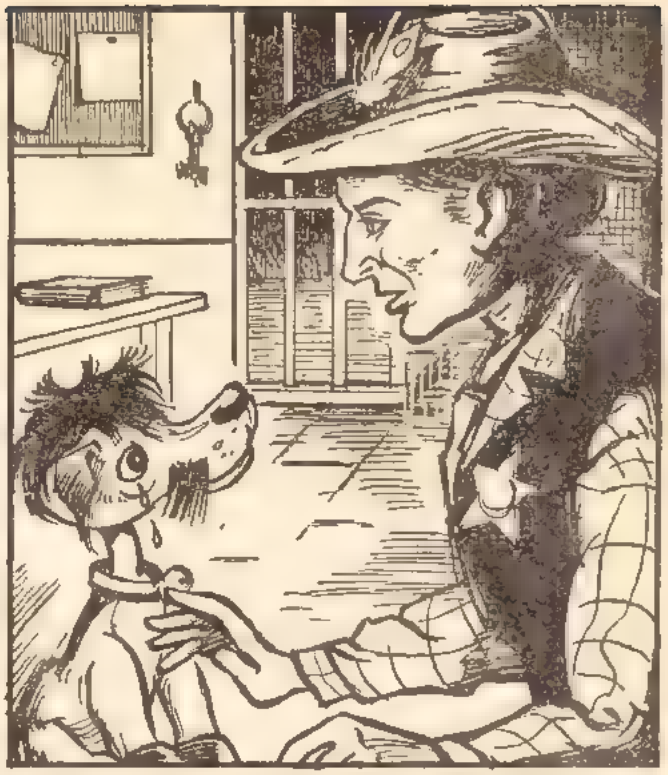
7. At last they came to an encampment, and Rocky was tied up securely. By this time he was completely exhausted.



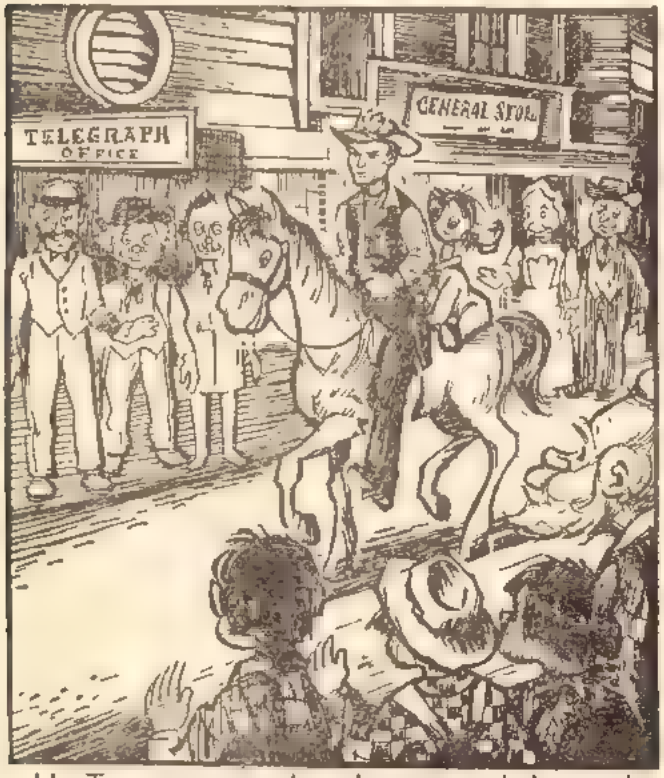
8. Rocky looked around him. He felt very lonely as the other horses were asleep. He missed Tex and Dusty very much.



9. Everyone in Four Feather Falls was missing Rocky too. Tex had searched everywhere, and poor Dusty was in tears.



10. "I wish I'd never b n so mean to him," sobbed Dusty. "We'll find him," said Tex, "but we've gotta move fast."



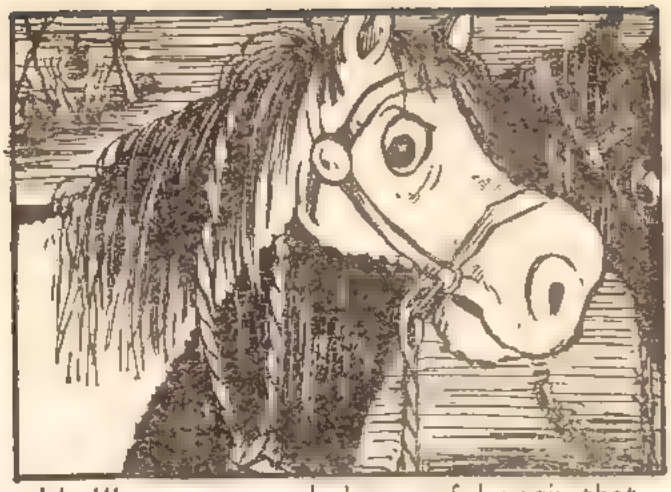
11. Tex borrowed a horse, and he and Dusty set out to search for Rocky. All the people of the town waved them good-bye.



12. Tex and Dusty rode for a long time. They searched every ranch for miles around but there was no sign of Rocky.



13. Meanwhile at the encampment Rocky looked up in alarm as he saw the thief approach him with a branding-iron.



14. "I say, you cad, be careful with that thing you're waving about," said Rocky. "I can't say I care for the idea at all."



15. But the man neither understood Rocky nor cared what he thought, and he brought the branding-iron down on to Rocky's back.



16. "Ouch!" exclaimed Rocky. "I must say I didn't like that at all. What an unpleasant bounder you are, sir!"



17. "Well, you've got my brand now," said the man nastily, "so if any nosy stranger comes around, you're my horse!"



18. All this time, Tex and Dusty were still riding. Tex was singing Rocky's favourite song, "Four Feather Falls".



19. Suddenly Rocky heard the voice singing. He realised at once that it was Tex, and his heart leapt up with joy.



20. "Tex," called Rocky. "Tex, I'm in the encampment. Do hurry, old chap, I'm tired of this beastly place. Help me!"



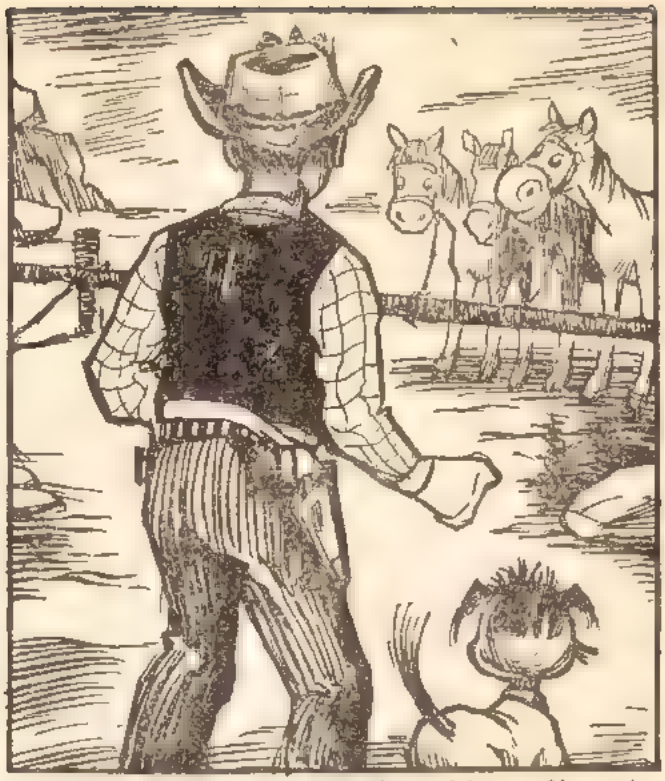
21. "Tex, did you hear that?" cried Dusty excitedly. "It's Rocky!" "Let's go, Dusty," said Tex, "we've no time to lose."



22. Tex rode swiftly to the encampment and confronted the thief. "I'm looking for my horse, Rocky," said Tex firmly.



23. "Don't know what yer lookin' here for," said the man roughly. "All these horses belong to me—see fer yerself."



24. "I aim to do just that, Mister," said Tex grimly, and he walked away to look at the horses with Dusty following.



25. "Thank goodness you've got here, Tex, old boy," said Rocky in a relieved voice. "I was beginning to give up hope."



26. "It's gonna be okay, Rocky," said Tex, patting him. But as he turned round he saw a gun pointing at him.



27. "Well, are you satisfied?" said the man. "That there horse is mine and it's got my brand to prove it. Now git goin'!"



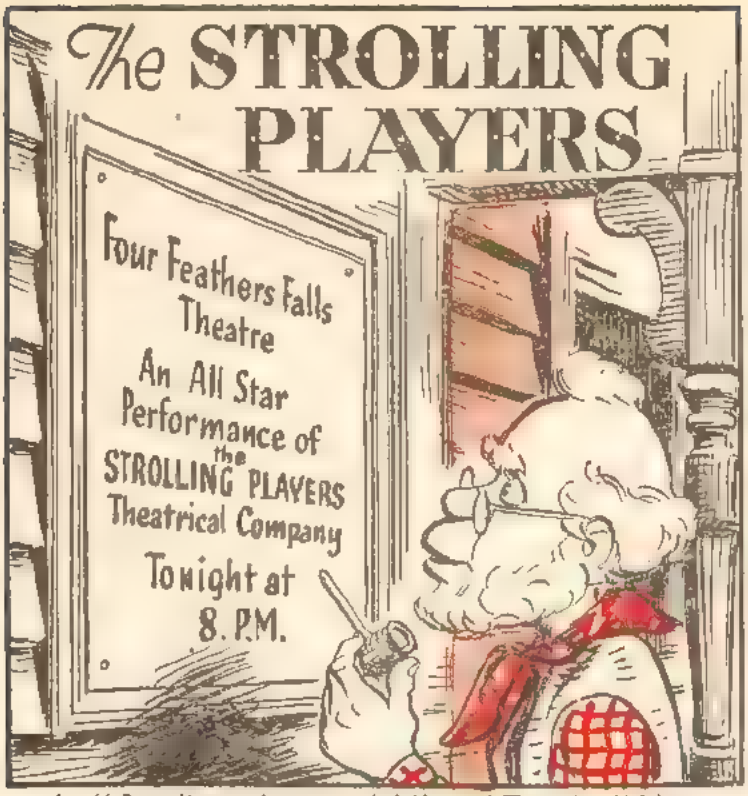
28. Suddenly Tex's magic gun swivelled in its holster and shot the gun out of the man's hand. "Help!" cried the man in amazement.



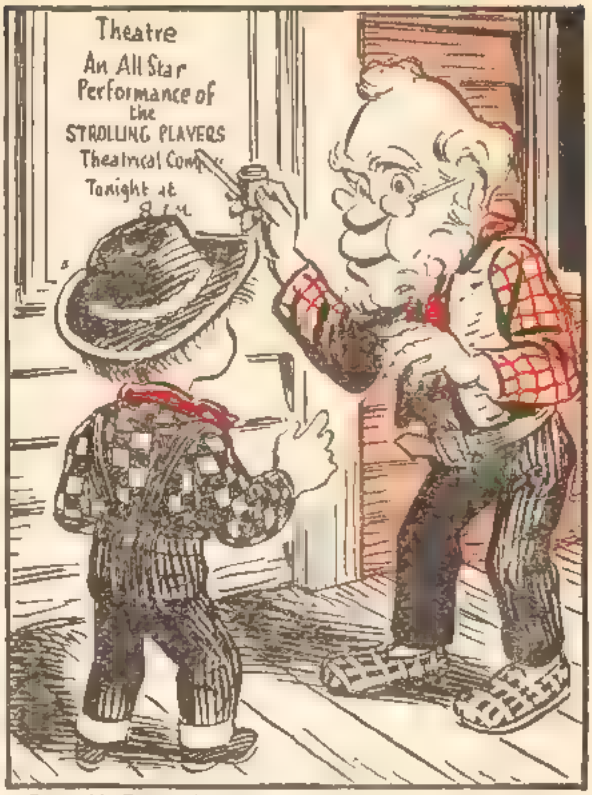
29. At the same time Rocky's brand mark disappeared like magic. "I'm puttin' you in jail, Mister," said Tex. "Git goin'!"



30. Tex returned all the horses to their owners. Then they rode home, singing their favourite song, "Four Feather Falls".



1. "Strolling players, eh?" said Twink. "Not my line o' country, but I guess I'll go along and see how good they can act."



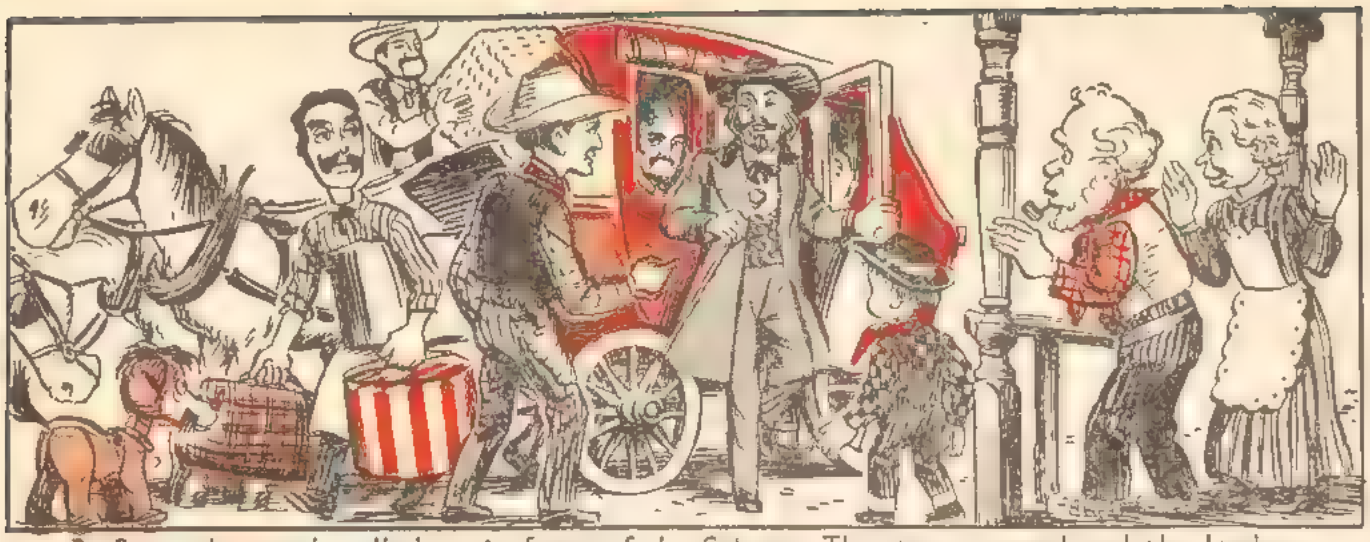
2. "Can I go too?" asked Jake. "Ain't for young uns to see," replied Twink disapprovingly.



3. "The players are comin' from Dallas," said Jim, coming to the door of the Saloon, "Stage'll be comin' any minute."



4. "Gee, Gramps," said Jake eagerly, "can I wait and see 'em all arrive?" "Guess so, son," said Twink.



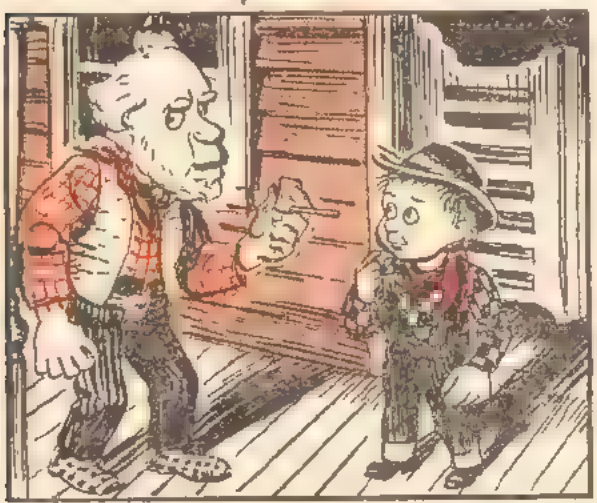
5. Soon the coach rolled up in front of the Saloon. The door opened and the lead ng player got out. Tex welcomed him and his company to Four Feather Falls.



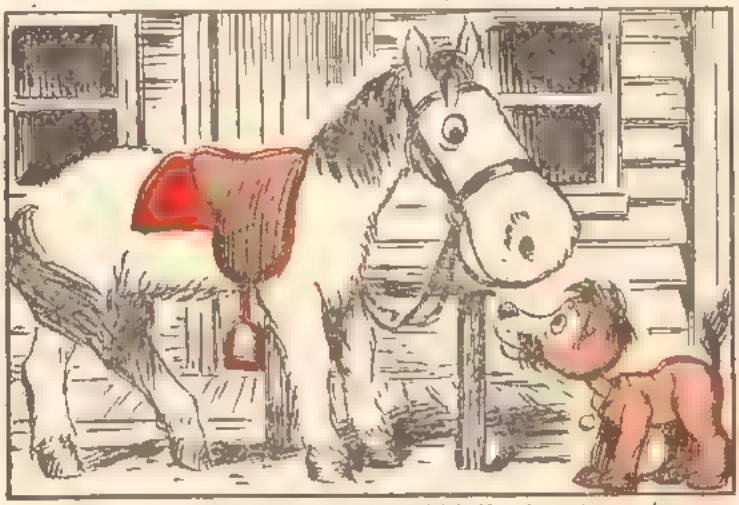
6. "May I introduce myself, sir?" said the player. "I am Irving Henry the great Shakespearian actor."



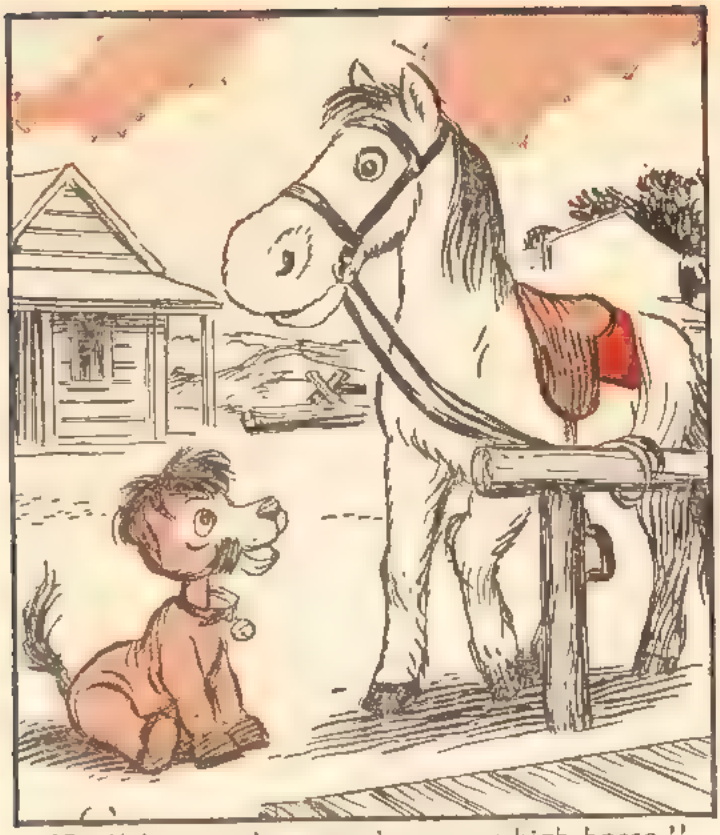
7. "Haven't we met before?" asked Tex. "No, sir," said the actor, "I never forget a face." "Neither do I," replied Tex firmly.



8. "Humph!" snorted Twink. "A real dude. Guess we'll be the judge of whether he's a great actor or not!"



9. Rocky said to Dusty, "Well, despite what you say, Dusty, old chap, I think this actor fellow is a gentleman."



10. "Aw, you're gittin' on your high horse," said Dusty. Then realising that he had made a joke, he laughed. "Ha! Ha! High Horse!"



11. "I don't think that's funny," said Rocky haughtily. He turned away, leaving Dusty still laughing.



12. Later, Jake was in Tex's office. The whole town was quiet. Everyone seemed to be getting ready for the play.



13. Jake was amusing himself drawing beards and moustaches to the faces on the WANTED posters on Tex's desk.



14. But Dusty didn't think it was clever, and knew that Tex would be annoyed when he found out.



15. Meanwhile in his hotel room, Irving Henry was having an interesting conversation with another member of the company.



16. "Now, while everyone is watching the play, you break into the Bank," he said, "and put the money in my room."



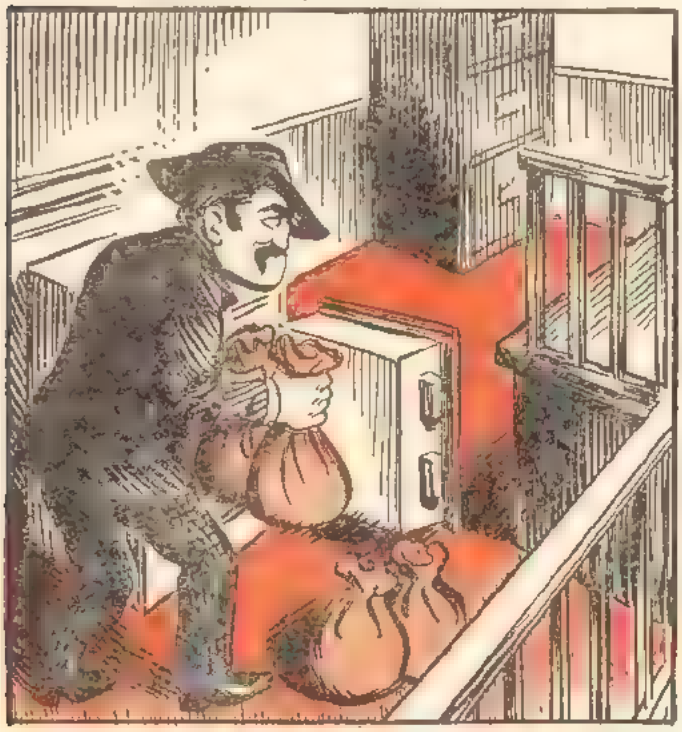
17. "But make sure you come back for the third act. No one must suspect anything. And to-morrow we'll be gone!"



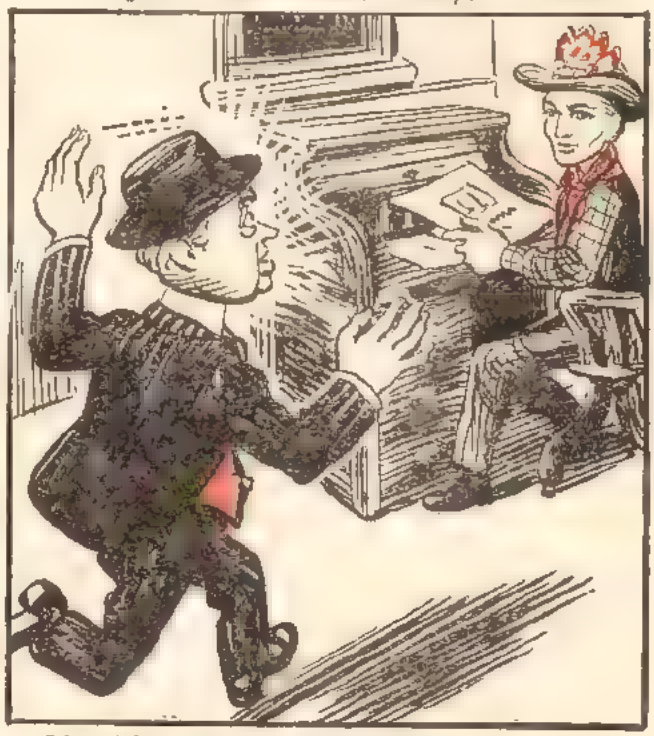
18. When Tex returned to h s office, he saw the posters that Jake had drawn on. "Looks like Jake's bin up to mischief," he said.



19. Suddenly Tex took up one of the posters and studied it. "Take a message to Dan Morse, Dusty," he said.



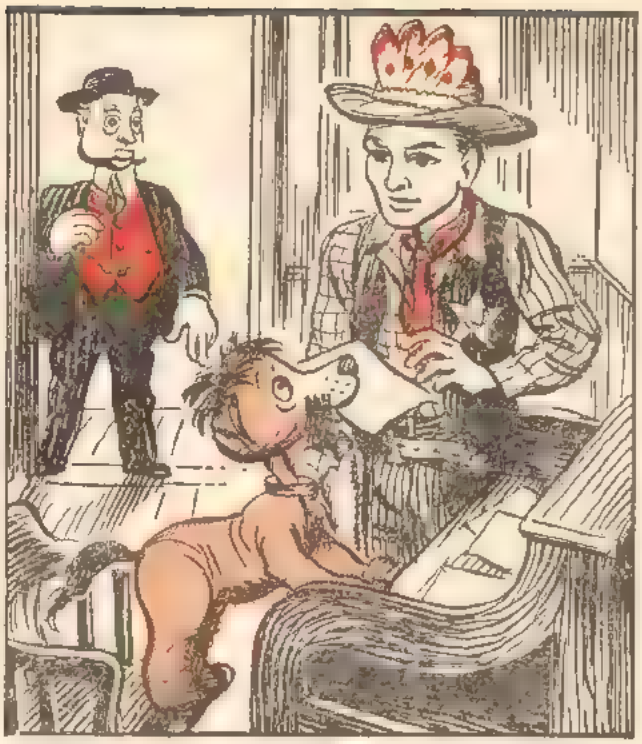
20. That night while everyone in Four Feather Falls was watching the Strolling Players, one of the actors was robbing the bank



21. After the play had ended, Marvin Jackson came bursting into Tex's office, gasping, "The Bank's been robbed!"



22. "They didn't waste much time," said Tex quietly. "I don't understand," said Marvin, "but please come quickly."



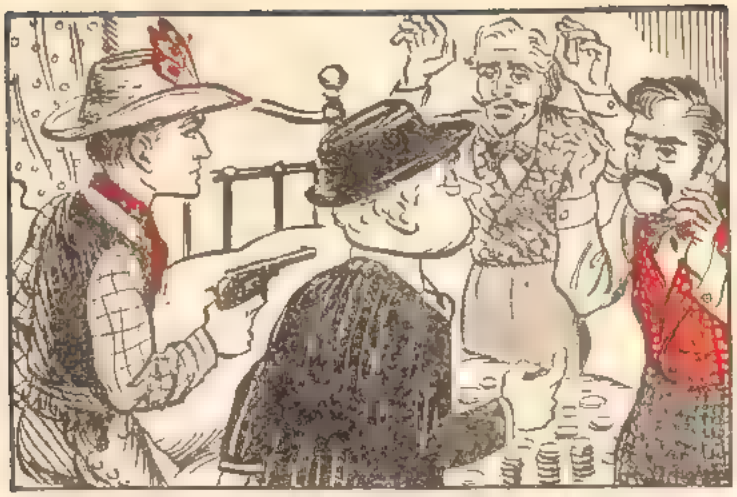
23. At that moment Dusty ran in with a message in his mouth. "This is what I've been waiting for," said Tex.



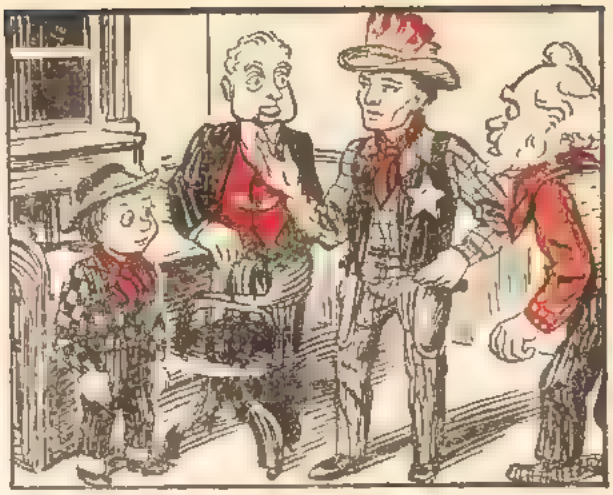
24. Tex read the message and then turned to Marvin. "All right, let's go. That's all I wanted to know."



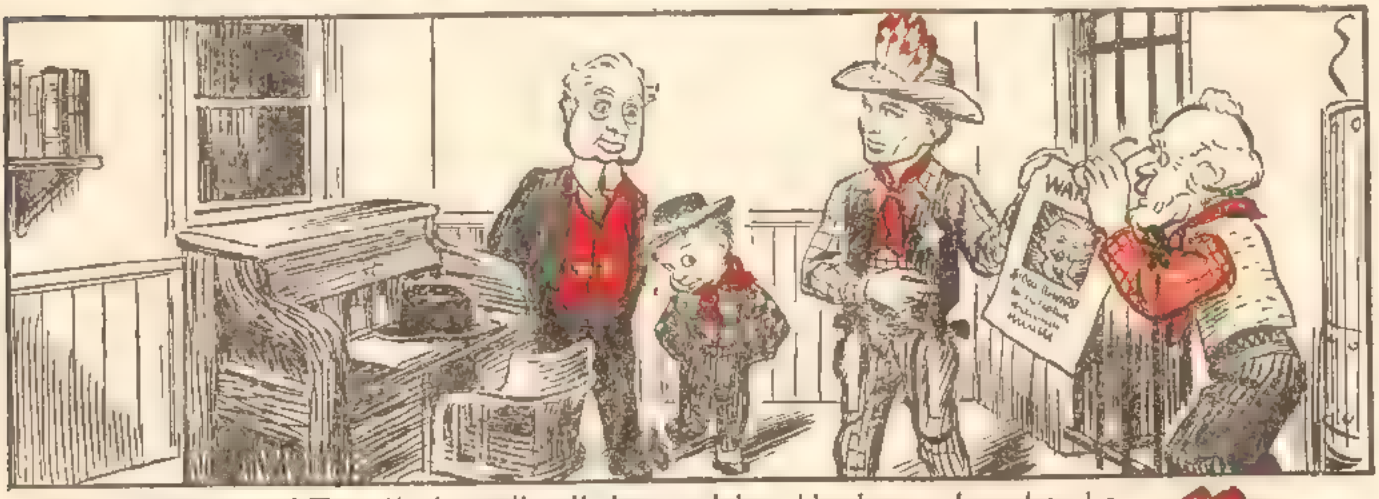
25. Tex and Marvin burst into Irving Henry's room and found the two crooks counting the money they had stolen.



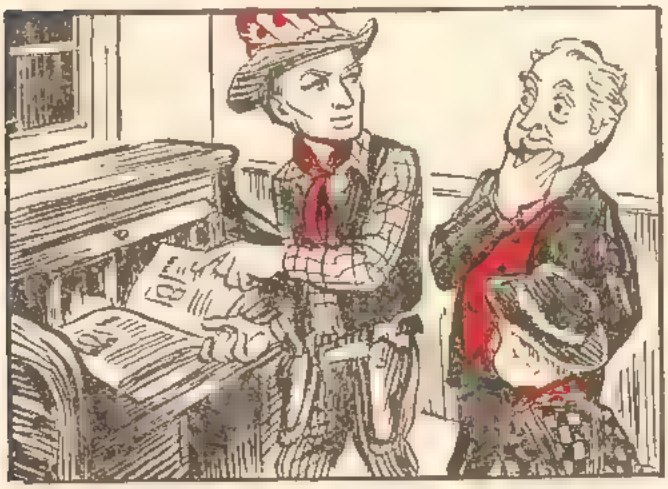
26. "The play's over," said Tex. "You can do all your acting in jail from now on!"



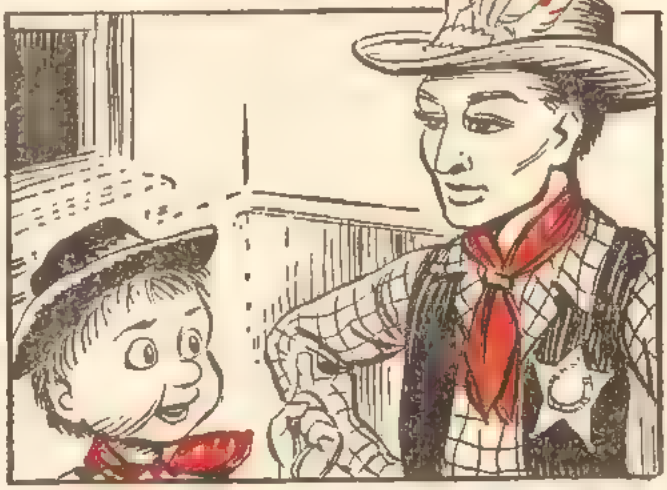
27. "I still can't think how you knew who the robbers were," said Marvin.



28. "Well," said Tex, "it's really all due to Jake. He drew a beard and a moustache on one of my WANTED posters. I recognised Irving Henry."



29. "I checked the records and found he was wanted for Bank robberies in five cities. I was sure he was our man."



30. "Gee, Tex," said Jake happily. "I'm sure glad I helped. But I promise I won't ever draw on your posters again."

The HOSTAGE



"BOSS! Boss!" panted Dusty as he ran into Tex's office. "It's an Indian attack!" "Now what do you mean, Dusty?" asked Tex calmly. "There haven't been any hostile Indians here for a long time." "There are smoke signals coming from the East," said Dusty excitedly. "And from the West," added Rocky, poking his head through the window.

"Indians, Tex!" shouted Twink as he ran into the office. "They're all around us. Smoke signals goin' up now—war signals at that!"

"O.K., Twink," said Tex grimly, "we've gotta move fast. I'll send Dusty out into the hills and find out just how many there are out there. Now you round everyone up and we'll hold a meeting right away."

"Sure thing, Tex," said Twink, hurrying away.

Dusty scouted out in the hills and reported back to Tex that there were hostile Indians scattered all around them, chanting war songs and wearing war paint.

"There's only one thing to do," said Tex, addressing



Tex addressed all the townsfolk.



They prepared for an Indian attack.

all the townsfolk of Four Feather Falls. "We must prepare and build barricades."

And so the people of Four Feather Falls prepared for an Indian attack. Marvin Jackson and Doc Haggerty built a barricade across from the Bank to the Main Street; Ma Jones, Twink and Little Jake built one at the other end of the town. Meanwhile Dan Morse and Slim Jim kept watch on the Hotel roof.

Just as Tex was leaving his office to inspect the barricades,

an arrow embedded itself in the door, and attached to it was a note. Opening the note, Tex read: "Makooya, grandson of enemy chief Kalamakooya held as hostage in our camp. Surrender and he will not die!"



Attached to the arrow was a note.

"What are yer gonna do, Boss?" asked Dusty anxiously. "I don't rightly know, Dusty," replied Tex, "but whatever happens we can't risk Makooya's life. We dare not fire a shot. Even if we do surrender they may still kill Makooya as revenge to Big Chief Kalamakooya who is the friend of the white man. This sure is a problem, Dusty!"

Tex thought and thought, and finally he said: "Dusty, I've got a dangerous mission for you, but you're the only one who can do it. Take this message to the Indian Chief in the hills—and Dusty!" "Yeah, Boss?" said Dusty. "Be careful," warned Tex.

"Good luck, Dusty," the whole town cried, as the brave little dog made his way into the enemy hills.

Tex had sent a message to the Chief challenging the skill of his bow and arrow to that of his guns. The prize was Makooya's life! If he lost, Tex well knew that he too would probably die, after first being tortured by the Indians. But it was a risk he had to take.

Dusty did deliver the message, but just as he was leaving the camp, he caught sight of Makooya who was being held prisoner in a wigwam.

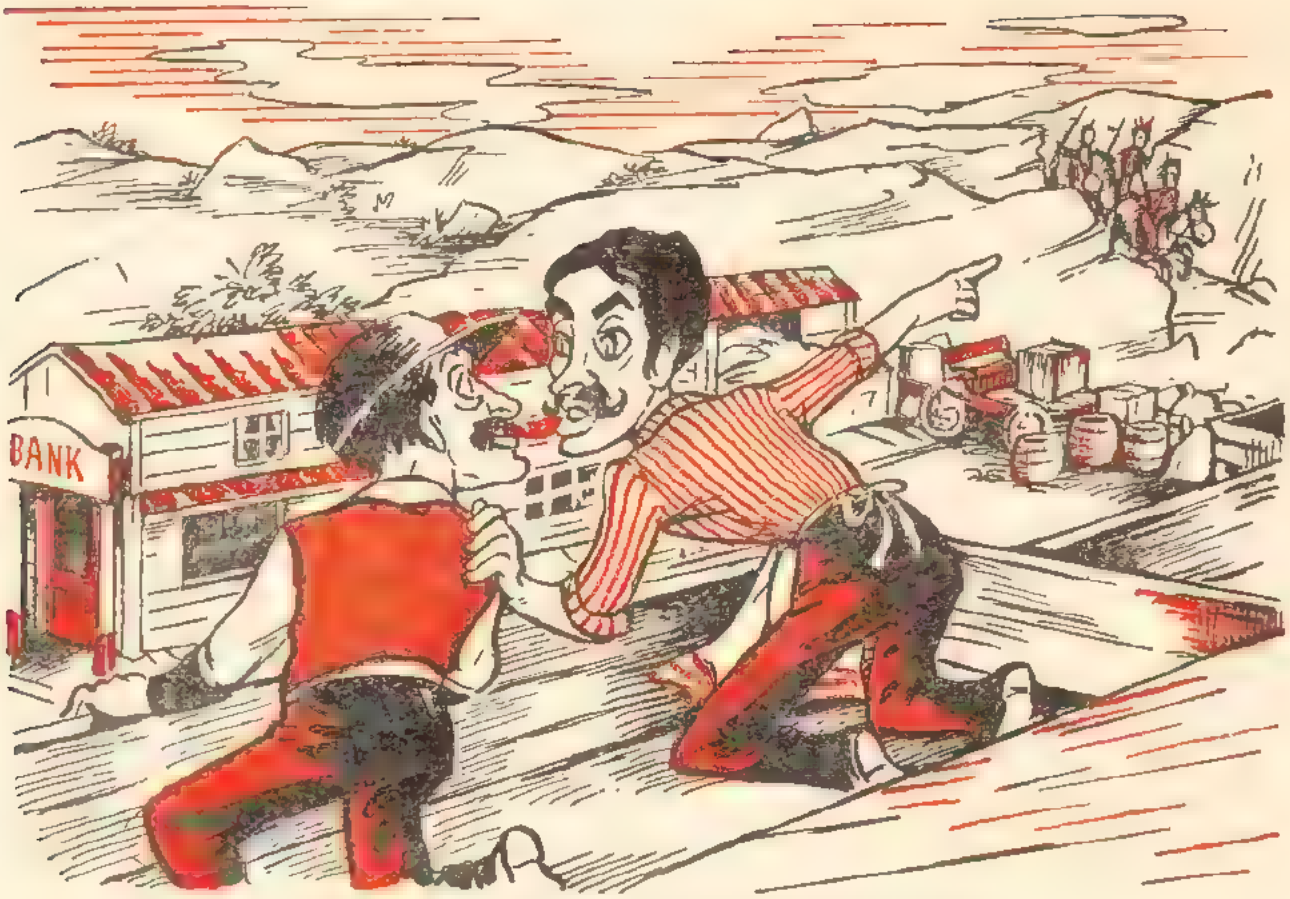
Stealthily Dusty crept round to the side of the wigwam and burrowed his way underneath, until finally he reached Makooya. How happy Makooya was to see him! "Dusty!" whispered Makooya in a relieved tone, and unclenching his fist he revealed a crumpled note that he had somehow managed to write before being tied up. "Take this to Kalamakooya," he whispered. "He will be returning soon to the encampment—please hurry, Dusty."



How happy Makooya was to see him!

Although Dusty could not reply, because only Tex could hear him speak, he understood all that Makooya had said, and made off as fast as his little legs could carry him to find Kalamakooya.

Back in Four Feather Falls, everyone was



Slim Jim spotted the hostile Indian Chief.

anxiously awaiting Dusty's return. Time went by and there was still no sign of him. And then Slim Jim spotted the hostile Indian Chief riding towards Four Feather Falls, accompanied by two Indian braves. It looked as if the Chief had accepted Tex's challenge.

Tex mounted Rocky and rode out to meet the Indian Chief alone. The whole town watched him go, in silence. They knew the skill of the Indian Chief would be a hard one to beat and perhaps even an impossibility.

Tex and the Indian Chief shot at target after target. The skill of the Indian's arrow was met equally with Tex's crack gunmanship.

"Why doesn't Tex use his magic guns, Grandpa?"

asked Jake, watching from the edge of town. "That wouldn't be right, son," replied Twink. "It's gotta be a fair fight."

And then came the final test! Drawing his bow, the Indian Chief selected a very thin branch of a tree and said: "Me shoot five arrows in branch of tree." As the first arrow hit its mark, the fragile branch quivered under the strain. The second arrow landed accurately alongside, followed by the third, fourth and fifth.

"Now what, Grandpa?" whispered Jake. "Hush, son," said Twink. "Let's hear what the Chief has to say."

"If Paleface shoot each arrow off tree," said the Indian Chief, "then Makooya go free. If Paleface fail—Makooya shall die!"

Slowly and deliberately Tex raised his gun, and then after a short pause, he fired. The first arrow fell to the ground!

No one dared say a word. Again and again Tex fired, and each time the arrow fell to the ground until there was only one left to shoot.

Little Jake could not bear to look and hid his face against Twink.

There was a shot, and slowly uncovering his eyes, Jake saw that the last arrow had fallen.

Admiringly, the Chief turned to Tex. "Redskin keep word," he said. "Makooya shall go free. Indian braves not attack. Paleface win respect of Comanche tribe."

So saying, the Chief turned away and rode towards the hills to free Makooya.

Suddenly there was a puff of smoke and the tree



The third arrow fell to the ground!

disappeared and standing in its place was BIG CHIEF KALAMAKOOYA!

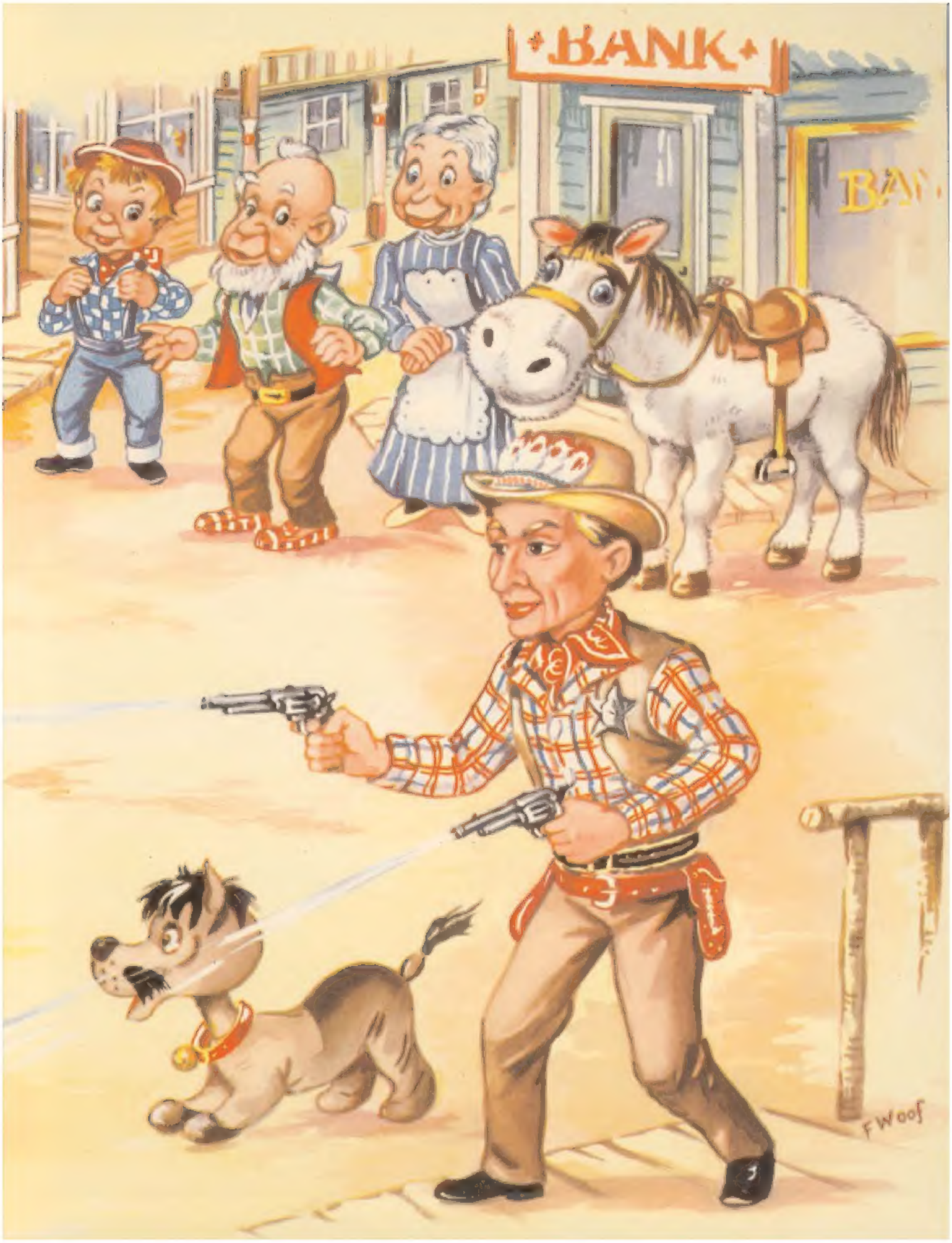
" KALAMAKOOYA! " cried Tex in amazement. " Then it was your magic all the time that beat the Indian Chief! "

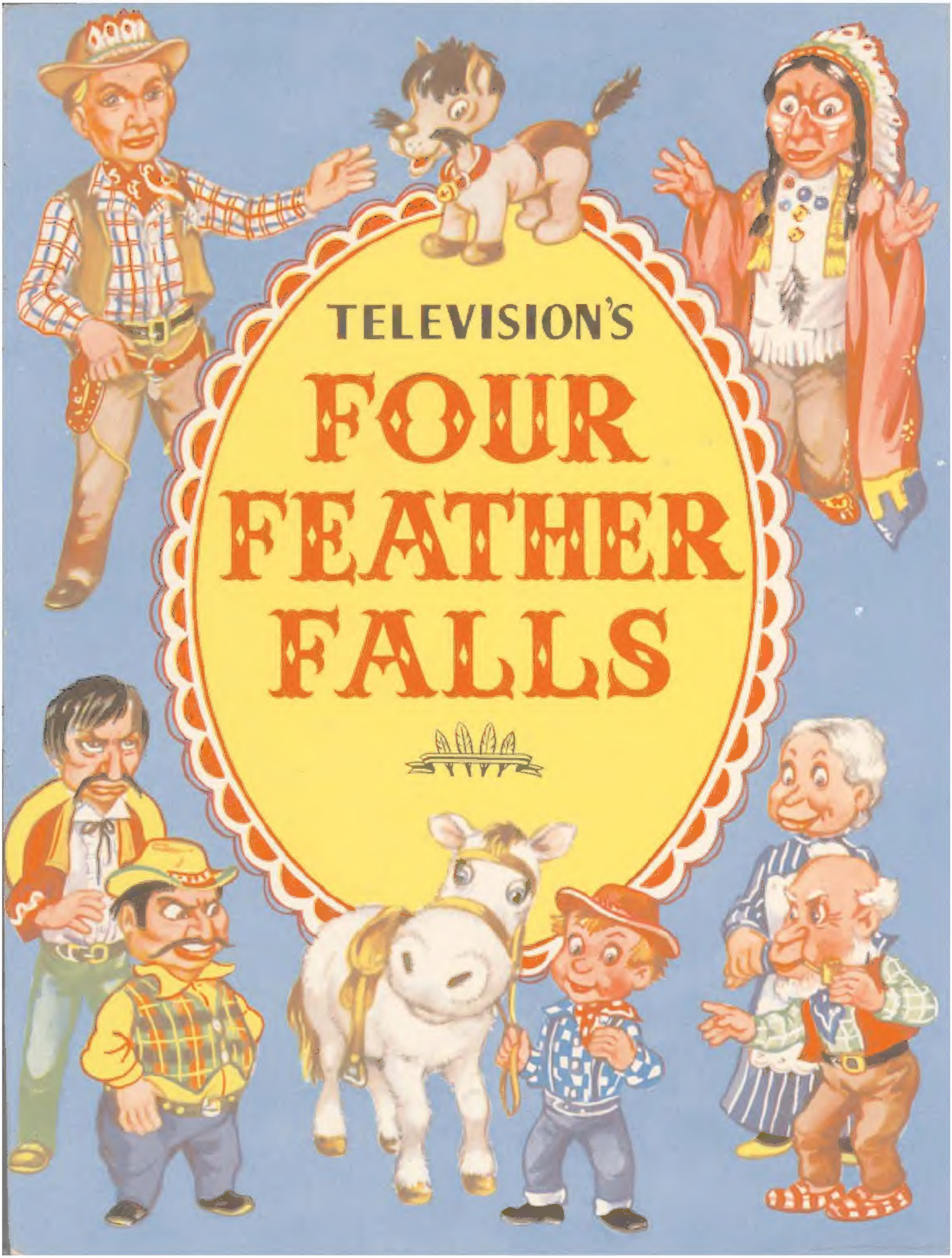
" No, " replied Kalamakooya. " Tex Tucker do not need Kalamakooya's help this time. Your skill win battle—not magic. "

The whole town was overjoyed at Tex's victory. And much later when the story of Dusty's bravery was told and Makooya was safely returned to his grandfather, Twink said: " Well, I guess we got just about the smartest Sheriff and the bravest dog in the West! "




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